Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-133
Thursday
13 July 1989

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FBIS-NES-89-133 *13 July 1989*

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Radio Comments on 'Heroic' Bus Operation

JN1307053689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1743 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Talk of the intifadah: "Zionism Is Returning to Its True Nature"]

[Text] To the masses of our heroic people in our blazing homeland; to our gigantic generations and revolutionary youths; to the heroes of our strike forces and popular army formations; to the valiant members of the youth committees; and to our brothers and sisters in the national federations, unions, societies, and establishments: The unique heroic operation carried by out by the hero 'Abd-al-Hadi Sulayman Ghunaym, the son of the valiant camp of al-Nusayrat, continues to draw reaction and reveal new dimensions and indications and prove our great, militant people's comprehensive awareness and profound understanding of the struggle against the transient Zionist invasion and occupation, which is uncontrollably slipping toward the end.

The first set of indications and dimensions lie in the heroic operation itself and its heroic executor, 'Abd-al-Hadi Sulyman Ghunaym, as well as in the imagination, preparation, and implementation. This operation has revealed that through their confrontations and total involvement in the intifadah [uprising], our Palestinian people have reached a point at which every Palestinian in the homeland has become a creator of the intifadah. The operation revealed that national independence has become an entrenched popular objective and a part of our people's daily life. It has also been revealed that our entire people and their forces are capable of militant innovation and that the barrier of fear of Zionist oppression has completely collapsed to be replaced by a great sense of fear inside every Zionist settler, occupier, and soldier in this mortal Zionist gathering.

The second dimension revealed by the repercussions of this operation is that Zionism, represented by the entity named Israel, has forever lost the means of its old deception and that its propaganda defense lines have collapsed forever to emerge in its true nature as an alien entity in this region that is based on nothing but terrorism and is completely dependent on foreign alliances. The Zionist entity has been revealed as an entity that enjoys no intrinsic requirements of survival because it is a body that stands outside history, logic, reason, and the constant, essential facts in this part of the world.

Among the repercussions of the heroic operation is that the entire world saw for itself that Zionism, which deceived many people by false words, has only one definition: seizure of land. This means that Israel wants the land first, and cares much less about peace. This also means that when hard decisions have to be made, Israel chooses land without peace and cannot choose peace without land. This fact, which is well understood by the Palestinians, indicates that Israel needs a great, essential shift to save itself from itself; that is, to save itself from its murderous, black Zionist nature and to save itself from the global forces that wanted to use it as a cheap instrument to achieve their ambitions—an instrument motivated by a heritage of Zionist, biblical, and Talmudic illusions and myths.

The Palestinians realized they must continue to escalate their struggle and promote its forms. They realize they must continue unpredictable innovations to foil all plots and confront the hardships of reality. In their struggle, which is part of the movement of history and creation of the future, the Palestinians are confident that every achievement they realize is a new light in their path and a new step toward victory. On the other hand, their enemy is retreating although it is hiding behind walls of iron and fire.

We say that the unique, heroic operation executed by the hero 'Abd-al-Hadi Sulayman Ghunaym is still drawing reactions. The enemy has once again failed the test. The enemy has blown up the house of the hero 'Abd-al-Hadi Ghunaym in the al-Nusayrat [refugee camp] and given our people in the camp another reason to hate the occupation and insist on getting rid of it.

The herds of settlers, who pick quarrels in the streets to subject our kinfolk in Jerusalem, Ramallah, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, are resorting to the ugliest and most racist, abnormal practices. Even the cries of the wolves of Gush Emunim, Kakh, and other rancorous Zionists are escalating: "Death to Arabs," "Burn the Arabs." This is another strong motive for our kinfolk, people, and children, whose eyes open on these scenes, to fight a comprehensive struggle to get rid of these settlements and this dark, abhorred occupation.

In fact, the three knights of hatred, terrorism, and racism—Sharon, David Levi, and Yitzhaq Moda'i—who made Shamir attack himself, destroy the [words indistinct] ugly settlement occupation. The Zionists, who for a long time, with the help of their allied media, tried to disguise themselves as sheep, have decided to show their true form—that of wild monsters, poisonous snakes, and criminal murderers.

We will not pause for long before the internal conflict among the Zionists. The Labor Party chose to take part in the government coalition under the Likud's conditions. If it chooses to withdraw from that partnership, this concerns it alone. But, as for us, we are not looking for a nice occupation, a polite settlement, or well-mannered soldiers and settlers. So long as there is occupation and settlement, there will never be any value, civilization, or humanity.

Therefore, our comprehensive decision—the decision embodied as a shining reality by our people in the arena of confrontation—is to continue all forms of struggle, continue to escalate the intifadah with all strength we

have, and continue the fight with all our capability to offer sacrifices until that occupation is defeated and our people achieve all bases for freedom and independence.

Greetings to the hero 'Abd-al-Hadi Sulayman Ghunaym who, through his fascinating, heroic act, created all these reactions, repercussions, and meanings. Greetings to every hand extended to hurl a stone or Molotov cocktail at the occupying enemy or stab him with a knife. Greetings to our great generations, who declared before the world that the sun of Palestine has risen and will not set. Revolution until victory.

MENA Interviews 'Arafat Adviser Abu-Sharif

NC1207184289 Cairo MENA in English 1700 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, July 12 (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, advisor to head of the Palestinian state Yasir 'Arafat, today affirmed the importance of talks to be held by 'Arafat with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo, saying that Egypt is our partner in our battle for peace.

In an interview with MENA correspondent here, the Palestinian official said that President Mubarak is always keen on the Palestinian issue just as its people.

He affirmed in this respect that President Mubarak will be the lawyer of the right during his talks in Paris with world leaders who will attend France's celebrations marking the bicentennial anniversary of its revolution. Abu-Sharif pointed out that the Mubarak-'Arafat talks in Cairo are of special importance especially they are held on the eve of President Mubarak's visit to Paris due to start tomorrow. [sentence as received] President Mubarak will meet with President Francois Mitterrand of France and George Bush of the United States and other world leaders who will attend France's celebrations, Abu-Sharif added.

He pointed out in this respect that the Middle East issue and the Palestinian problem will undoubtedly top issues to be discussed by President Mubarak with those leaders.

Abu-Sharif said that the current Mubarak-'Arafat talks in Cairo are of special importance of being held after the decisions adopted by the Likud bloc led by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on his plan for holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He described the recent Likud decisions as "dangerous," adding that these decisions need to be discussed calmly, and deeply.

The Palestinian official stressed that coming view of exerted peace efforts did not only mean a statement in the Middle East affairs but also meant pushing the PLO towards the brink of explosion. [sentence as received]

At an interview to the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) Yasir 'Arafat's advisor said that it was expected that President Husni Mubarak and 'Arafat would agree to the speedy action plan in order to maintain the momentum at the international level regarding the Palestinian issue and peace in the region.

He further explained that the recent Likud Central Committee resolutions have shocked some Western states which were under the illusion that Shamir's and Likud's stance was one for peace.

The Likud's decision is one annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Israel, he said adding, therefore, the USA and the whole world should take a positive stance on the Israeli occupation of both the West Bank and Gaza.

'Arafat's advisor said that if Shamir agreed to UN Security Council Resolution 242 we would ask for an immediate timetable of Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

If Shamir refused to abide by that resolution then we would call upon the USA to honour its commitments to terminate Israel's occupation which have been delivered to us through official messages, he said.

Abu-Sharif stressed that the PLO was willing to cooperate with U.S. President George Bush and his administration in order to find an all-out solution in the region.

He further pointed out that the PLO was intensifying its political moves at all levels to confront the Likud's decision to annex the West Bank and Gaza strip.

In conclusion Abu-Sharif paid tribute to the Egyptian diplomacy's support for the Palestinian cause.

The active Egyptian diplomatic move which has began since the take-off of the Palestinian initiative last December is quite concomitant with the Palestinian struggle for peace, he added.

PLO Representative in Bonn Interviewed

NC1007193689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1544 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Bonn, 10 Jul (MENA)—PLO representative in Bonn 'Abdallah al-Ifranji has said that Israeli society needs a shock to awaken it from the illusion of supremacy over neighboring countries and noted that radicalism and extremism will not work in ending the Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

In an interview with a MENA correspondent, he pointed out that all circumstances lead in one direction for resolving the Palestinian issue.

He said that those who want to solve the problem militarily have no future, noting that military solutions have become unacceptable in the current phase of detente between the Soviet Union and the United States as well as between East and West.

He noted that Likud's stand at the bloc's central committee meeting illustrated Israeli intransigence. He pointed out that he was relieved because this had prevented Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from carrying out any maneuver.

Commenting on the Labor Party's threat to leave the ruling coalition in Israel, Al-Ifranji said the Labor Party has wasted historic chances for peace in the Middle East and commtted a mistake by joining the coalition and staying in it after the Palestinian initiative. He urged the Labor Party, if it leaves the coalition, to work out a strategy answering the Palestinian initiative.

He said Israeli society needs a violent shake-up like the departure of the Labor Party from the coalition so that some Israeli leaders who possess courage to respond to the Palestinian peace initiative may emerge.

He expressed his belief that Israeli society will one day be compelled to make one of two decisions; a continuation of this situation, which is not in Israel's favor, or that Israeli leaders be forced to accept the new policy of fait accompli, which is being imposed by logic and history. Thus, he said, they will have to negotiate with the PLO within the framework of an international conference and to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state. He emphasized that peace will not be established in the region unless the Israelis take this into consideration.

The PLO representative in Bonn affirmed that the U.S. Administration will inevitably agree to the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East now that a constructive dialogue has been conducted between the United States and the PLO as well as the existing dialogue between Washington and Moscow. He noted that all developments are proceeding in the direction of the international peace conference.

Al-Ifranji commented on the German stand on the Palestinian issue, saying it has been one of the most belated of the European stands. He voiced hope that the German position after the EC summit declaration will be more positive vis-a-vis the PLO and the Palestinian people now that all West European countries have established overt relations with the PLO, a measure which the German Government has failed to take.

He praised the recent recognition of the PLO by the FRG Democratic Socialist Opposition Party, describing it as a bold step, that will have an impact on the Palestinian-German relations. He welcomed a meeting between the PLO and the German Government when a PLO delegation visits the FRG in mid-September. He said: We are willing to meet with the German officials publicly because we seek clarification of the German policy. He pointed out that to push the peace process forward, the German Government must seize the opportunity of the presence of a PLO delegation in Bonn to conduct a direct dialogue, as was the case in Paris when French President Francois Mitterrand met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

He expressed his hope that the German Government will extend an invitation to 'Arafat to visit Germany.

Gaza Figure on Conditions for 'Interim Solution'

JN1107113089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Jul 89 p 3

[By Mazin Mahmud al-Shawwa]

[Text] As'ad al-Saftawi, a prominent figure from the occupied Gaza Strip, has affirmed that the Palestinian orientation toward peace is strategic rather than tactical. He said that the Palestinian people in the occupied territory are firmly united. He added that the forces in the occupied Palestinian territories continuously coordinate their actions and that the popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising] against the Israeli occupation will continue until it achieves its objectives. He said the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories are one family under the PLO.

In an exclusive statement to AL-AKHBAR, Al-Saftawi said: If the election process in the Palestinian territories constitutes a step within a complete peace process, we do not object to it so long as the PLO has approved it and if the appropriate international supervision is secured to guarantee the freedom and impartiality of the election. He added: Proceeding from our understanding of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the doubts that the Palestinians and the Israelis have, and out of our eagerness for the peace efforts to succeed, we accept an interim solution according to the step-by-step policy. This is on condition that a full peace settlement be clear to both the Palestinians and the Israelis, from the first to the last step in the peace process. The implementation of these steps should be within a fixed and agreed upon timetable.

As'ad al-Saftawi arrived in Cairo from occupied Palestine on a visit of several days during which he will meet with senior Foreign Ministry officials. AL-AKHBAR has learned that Al-Saftawi will raise with the Egyptian officials some comments and ideas about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The ideas can be summed up as follows:

—The Shamir plan divides the Palestinian people and makes no commitments to the Palestinians outside the occupied Palestinian homeland.
—The plan implies that the Israelis' problem is with the Arabs and excludes the Palestinian people, although they are the major and essential party to the problem.

—The plan ignores all Palestinian legitimate political rights and denies the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.
—The Shamir plan excludes the PLO although the entire Palestinian people stand behind it.
—Israeli thinking considers the improvement of the Palestinians' living conditions to be the core of the Palestine question, as shown by the projects implemented in the Shaykh Radwan and al-Amal districts in Gaza, the Dayr al-Sultan project in Rafah, and the Bayt Lahiyah project. However, events have proved that this is not the issue. It is a question of a people rejecting the occupation and struggling for their freedom and independence on the soil of their homeland.

PLO National Fund Chairman Interviewed

PM1107150689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jul 89 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member and Palestinian National Fund Chairman Jawid al-Ghusayn by Zaki Musa in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musa] It has recently been rumored that the Jordanian-Palestinian committee in charge of occupied territory affairs is having financial difficulties and that there is an inclination to turn it into an information center only. How much money has the committee received and what is the cause of its present situation?

[Al-Ghusayn] The quantity of funds, originally approved at the Baghdad summit in 1978, has recently been diminishing because some states are not keeping their promises. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the only Arab state which has fully honored its commitments to the committee. It paid the last installment in December 1988.

The Algiers summit conference also adopted resolutions allocating aid to the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory. These resolutions stipulated that $128 million should be paid immediately and $40 million monthly. The immediate sum was not paid as agreed. Early this year some states began paying and it, was left to each state to determine how much it should pay depending on its circumstances. Although all the Arab states are committed to paying these sums, they still fall short of the needs of the people in the occupied territory. [passage omitted]

[Musa] How much of the funds approved at the Algiers summit conference has the PLO received so far, and what channels are used to get the aid to the people of the occupied territory, if it is possible to talk about that?

[Al-Ghusayn] Getting large sums in, and openly, is absolutely out of the question. That is why we have tried to have supplies, medical equipment, ambulances, and teaching materials for schools delivered. That is in addition to bearing the new burdens resulting from Jordan's disengagement, including payment of salaries and management of various sectors. [passage omitted]

[Musa] What is the extent of the PLO's [financial] commitments to the occupied territory since Jordan's disengagement and what followed?

[Al-Ghusayn] I can say that our commitment is to the entire people. There are 120,000 workers. If we want civil disobedience to continue, then these people will need $50 million every month—and that is not available. That is why some of them stage sporadic strikes. Some have been deported and others imprisoned, and large families are left without income or means of livelihood. That is why we use all possible channels to get aid to these families. Some non-Arab states have contributed aid totalling $55 million in recent months. Italy, in particular, has donated $20 million and Japan has donated $7 million. These funds meet some needs, but if the Palestinian people are to get the necessary aid to maintain their steadfastness, then the Arab brothers must honor what was agreed at the Algiers summit. [passage omitted]

[Musa] The PLO's financial status is still a point of controversy and some views have gone too far. What is the truth about the PLO's finances?

[Al-Ghusayn] The truth is that the total amounts allocated at the Baghdad summit were $250 million for the PLO annually and $100 million for the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee. Only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully honored its commitments. The sum total of the Saudi payments made was approximately $856 million, with the rest of the Arab brothers contributing roughly an equal sum.

Recently, following the latest summit conference, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Libya have provided new aid. We hope that the states which cannot extend financial aid because of their financial circumstances will help in other ways, in such fields as supply and medical assistance. There is great suffering and many families have lost their breadwinners, some of whom are in prison.

[Musa] What is the size of the PLO's annual budget?

[Al-Ghusayn] It is about $200 million. That is the annual figure, but since the beginning of the intifadah we have exceeded that figure by about $80 million, in addition to donations that came from charities, from such sources as the Islamic Fund, the Jerusalem Fund, some Arab states that have supported the Intifadah Fund, and some European states. All that aid, however, remains small compared to the needs of the people who have lost most of their sources of income.

[Musa] What is the scale of the investments which the PLO is said to make from time to time?

[Al-Ghusayn] Frankly, the total sum received by the PLO over the past 10 years is approximately $1.6 billion in Arab aid. If the PLO's declared annual budget is $200 million,

and in some cases it reached $225 million, and considering the added burdens resulting from the intifadah, how could PLO investments possibly reach the speculative sum of $15 or $16 billion, as claimed by certain sectors of the Western media? We wish it were true, but were would it come from? If you ask how the PLO covers the deficit resulting from the PLO's expenditure, which over the past period reached $2 billion, then I say that the donations received from Palestinians—which are collected as liberation tax, and others—cover the deficit. I am talking about the Palestinian National Fund, which is the PLO financial apparatus that receives all these funds and donations. The various factions, such as the Fatah Movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and others, have their own budgets and funding sources which we know nothing about.

I believe that there are no investments in the real sense of the word. There is the al-Samid establishment which looks after martyrs' families. It engages in some work to rehabilitate them and find them job opportunities through training in various vocations. This work assumes a commercial nature to market products. This is a pioneering idea and it has served many people, but the value of the investments cited by others is highly exaggerated.

[Musa] Shamir has recently announced his idea of elections in the occupied territory and conditions for holding such elections. What is your answer? Did that announcement come as a surprise to the PLO after the peace moves it initiated?

[Al-Ghusayn] Actually, Yitzhaq Shamir's announcement of his preconditions for elections in the occupied territory during his party's meetings last week did not come as a surprise to us. He had paved the way to it with a chain of statements and attitudes all indicating that his initiative for elections in the occupied territory was nothing but a propaganda ploy to improve Israel's world image. [passage omitted]

Abu-Iyad Cited on U.S. Dialogue Policy

PM1207141089 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 Jul 89 p 5

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by 'Umar Jastinyah; date, place not given]

[Text] [Jastinyah] What preparations are being made for the Fatah congress, which has not met for 9 years?

[Khalaf] Preparatory meetings for the movement's congress began last Sunday to pave the way for the congress session at the end of this month, though we have not yet agreed on an actual date. In our meetings we discuss general and particular issues related to the movement, the cause, Palestinian-Arab relations, and Palestinian international relations. The importance of this congress stems from the fact that it has been 9 years since the movement's last meeting.

[Jastinyah] Could you briefly give the main reasons for that, and could you tell us how optimistic you are about the results of the movement's general congress?

[Khalaf] There are many reasons why the congress has not met throughout that period, but we do not want to reopen old wounds. Thank God, we will be meeting with high hopes and optimism that we will produce positive and constructive resolutions reflecting our aims and aspirations.

[Jastinyah] Let us move from the Fatah congress to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. You have said that the results of the dialogue are unsatisfactory. What did you expect from the dialogue?

[Khalaf] The principle of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is undoubtedly a positive one and we really do see some change in the U.S. position today compared to what it was in the past, but it is a minor change. We hope that, through the dialogue and the numerous meetings between the two sides in that context, the U.S. position will become more neutral, just, and fair.

[Jastinyah] So, bearing in mind what you have said, what has the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue achieved since it began on 16 December 1988?

[Khalaf] First of all, in the past the U.S. Administration used to hear about our cause from others but the dialogue has made it possible for the U.S Administration to hear what we have to say and to know our thinking about our cause directly from us without any third parties.

This situation, in my view, gives the U.S. Administration the chance to understand our position and gives us a chance to discuss new developments with them, even though we have been in disagreement since the beginning of the dialogue. I expect the dialogue to produce positive U.S. stands.

[Jastinyah] You have mentioned disagreement between the U.S. and Palestinian sides. What are the main points of disagreement and what change has occurred?

[Khalaf] First, the main point of disagreement between us is that they espouse the Israeli position, which sets details of a solution before its principles. We are interested in discussing the principles of a solution before going into the details, or in agreeing on a principle and then discussing the details, including elections.

Second, on the question of representation, as you know, the U.S. Administration has told us that it does not wish to divide the Palestinians between Palestinians inside [the occupied territory] and Palestinians outside. That is

fine, but Israel's stubbornness prevents this from being fulfilled. The Israelis want to divide the Palestinians between Palestinians of the occupied territory and Palestinians abroad, in the hope of fragmenting the cause and dividing the Palestinian people. They want that to be the beginning, but we say there is no more room for mistakes. A wrong beginning could lead to even worse consequences. Our dialogue in recent days has been on these and similar points.

[Jastinyah] Assuming that the level of U.S. representation in the talks is raised, would you expect this to lead to some change and, if so, to what extent?

[Khalaf] First, this is up to the U.S. Administration and depends on the extent of its understanding and willingness. It depends not on a wish on our part but on a decision on their part. We had hoped that our dialogue would continue through the ambassador "and it was supposed to be a daily dialogue" but we also hoped it could develop to the extent that any U.S. official visiting the region would contact us as a main party. Be that as it may, we will leave it to the U.S. Administration and see how its dialogue with us develops.

[Jastinyah] Your call for officials visiting the region to contact you leads us to the international view of the cause and its repercussions on the region's security.

[Khalaf] Let us take the EC statement first. You will find that, for the first time, it is frank and includes three good points which will reflect on the positions of the EC member-states and future European visits to the region. The first point speaks openly about an international conference. The second point speaks of self-determination and, for the first time, a statement on EC meetings speaks of the need for the PLO's participation as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative. The third point indirectly rejects Shamir's plan. This confirms that there is a new view of the region and of our people's right to regain their territory and determine their own future. Yes, the international view of our cause has changed, though the United States at present does not believe in talking about an international conference or the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Our efforts will continue and positions and attitudes could change one day.

[Jastinyah] You previously said that a high-level Palestinian delegation would be arriving in Damascus soon. Can you tell me more about this? When will the delegation arrive?

[Khalaf] The decision to convene Fatah's congress has somewhat delayed the formation and announcement of the delegation until after preparations for the congress have been made. I confirm here that, in principle, the visit is still on and that we intend to go ahead with it. We are also waiting for the brother Syrians to finish dealing with certain issues related to Lebanon. We await their invitation.

[Jastinyah] Do you mean there is coordination between you and them on this matter?

[Khalaf] No, I do not mean that, though we have had contacts with the Syrian brothers since the Casablanca summit. I would call them not intensive contacts, but mutual contacts through the Algerian brothers or Soviet friends.

[Jastinyah] So, the Syrian are willing to receive a Palestinian delegation in the near future.

[Khalaf] I cannot confirm whether they will or will not receive a delegation, but I believe that the matter requires some time.

[Jastinyah] Am I to understand from this diplomatic answer that Syrian-Palestinian relations are still cool?

[Khalaf] Actually, we cannot describe relations as cool. In my view, Syrian-Palestinian relations now are good compared with what they were before the Casablanca summit conference, particularly as the Syrian and Palestinian presidents met in the presence the Libyan and Algerian presidents as heads of their delegations. That helped an improvement of relations between the two sides.

[Jastinyah] According to some Palestinian sources, a regular army of up to 1,500 Palestinian soldiers is being prepared in southern Lebanon. Such statements have led to heavy Israeli air raids on Palestinian positions. Do you not think that that was irresponsible?

[Khalaf] I assure you that no Palestinian official has mentioned any figures. These figures are Israeli press "balloons" to justify the repeated invasion of southern Lebanon, and of Lebanon in general. We have not once mentioned, and I have not heard a single Palestinian official mention, anything about that matter. We have a people's militia in the heart of one of the camps defending it. Let me tell you that whenever (Zionist) news agencies carry reports attributed to Palestinian sources, the contents of such reports are untrue. The Palestinians know the value of words and they know when to talk.

[Jastinyah] After Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat announced his acceptance of certain U.S.-Israeli proposals on elections, it was claimed that there were Palestinian differences of opinion. How true is that?

[Khalaf] First, there are no differences whatsoever within the Fatah Movement. We are agreed on the political line, particularly since the Algiers summit. Second, the same applies to the organizations within the PLO. The Popular Front [PFLP] has some objections, but they are open to discussion and do not place it outside the PLO framework. Third, there are small organizations outside the PLO framework, which are of no significance.

[Jastinyah] Today, 19 months on, what can you tell me about the intifadah [uprising] and Israeli statements and repressive attempts?

[Khalaf] Since Shamir's return from the United States there has been a savage escalation of measures against the heroic intifadah. Severe punishments have been meted out and eight people have recently been deported. These measures show how desperate they are to quell the intifadah. There have been some [legislative] amendments. Shamir wants to amend the deportation and trial laws. The Zionist army has been authorized to suppress and kill without prior reference to the legal institutions. Furthermore, there have been military appointments of people known for their hatred of and grudge against the Arabs. We have stood fast for about 20 months and we will continue to stand fast. As regards agency claims that the intifadah has been cooling down, that is not true. The cooling down is in the media, because Israel blacks out news of the intifadah which is raging more and more and becoming more determined every day.

[Jastinyah] What kind of Palestinian mediation did Yasir 'Arafat carry out between the Kabul regime and the mujahidin government, which was said not to have been welcomed in Afghanistan?

[Khalaf] First, the mediation resulted in the release of an American reporter. Second, the Palestinian mediation embodies no Soviet or any other viewspoint. Third, when the Palestinian envoy's mission there is completed we will be able to talk about this matter in detail.

Egypt

Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives in Cairo 12 Jul

NC1207175189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1748 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, leader of the Sudanese salvation revolution, arrived in Cairo by private plane at 2025 today on a private visit to Cairo lasting several hours. During the visit, Lt Gen al-Bashir will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak, who was at the head of those who received the Sudanese leader at the airport.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC1207183089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1824 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, held a round of talks this evening shortly after the official reception accorded the Sudanese guest at the Presidential Palace. Attending the talks was Sudanese Interior Minister Staff Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih.

Dinner Honors Al-Bashir, 'Arafat

NC1207200489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1947 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet this evening in honor of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, who are currently visiting Cairo. Members of the accompanying delegations attended.

MENA has learned that the three leaders resumed their talks and consultations during the banquet. Members of the Egyptian, Sudanese, and Palestinian delegations attended the talks.

News Conference Held

NC1207220089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, has emphasized that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are eternal, saying: I will not say that I have come to my second country because this would do an injustice to Egypt. What Egypt has done for the Sudanese people is known. I have come to thank President Husni Mubarak for his direct and quick stand to support us. During a news conference held jointly with President Husni Mubarak tonight, Lt Gen al-Bashir added: President Mubarak's help has facilitated our mission and averted the problems which we expected to confront. This facilitated the progress of work in Sudan.

Al-Bashir added: I also came to congratulate President Mubarak on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and to acquaint him with our views on current issues before his departure for France tomorrow.

President Mubarak spoke at the beginning of the news conference. He congratualted Lt Gen al-Bashir on the success of his mission and welcomed his visit to Cairo, which is his first visit outside Sudan since the revolution.

Al-Bashir also said: The issue of the south is the main question we are confronting. We have sent a message expessing our view to John Garang, leader of the movement in the south. We are waiting for an answer. However, I emphasize that we have received no preconditions from the movement so far.

Dealing with the question of the political formula to be raised in Sudan in the future, Al-Bashir said: We are studying and debating this important issue in order that the people may take part in it. No stand on this issue has yet crystalized.

Referring to the economic problem in Sudan, Al-Bashir said that he expects President Mubarak's discussions with leaders of the major industrial states in Paris will cover this issue. He pointed out that he discussed this problem with President Mubarak.

President Mubarak opened the news conferece saying: I take this opportunity to welcome Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir on his first visit to Egypt and outside Sudan. We held discussions on the latest developments at home and abroad and on Sudanese-Egyptian relations. Everyone knows that these are deep-seated relations. We also discussed various subjects and I sincerely hope for every kind of progress and prosperity for fraternal Sudan.

President Mubarak said Al-Bashir's short visit to Egypt was for the purpose of becoming acquainted and exchanging views on all matters.

Lt Gen al-Bashir then said: As President Mubarak mentioned, this is our fist visit abroad. It has to be to Egypt. We cannot say that Egypt is our second country. This would do an injustice to Egypt because Egypt is our country.

Al-Bashir added: Everyone knows what Egypt has given to the Sudanese people from time immemorial. We came to Egypt particularly to thank President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people for their support for Sudan. We also came to thank the Egyptian people and President Mubarak for their stand in our support. This facilitated our mission and we lost no time in regulating the progress of work from the first day of the revolution,

thanks to the efforts of our brothers in Egypt. Egypt anticipated all problems we expected to face and presumed to help us deal with them. This is not strange because we are all brothers and a brother should extend help to his brother when he asks it.

We rushed our visit because President Mubarak leaves for Paris tomorrow. We decided to come to extend our greetings on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, become acquainted, and thank the Egyptian people for backing us.

Answering a question on the issue of the south and what has been reiterated to the effect that the southerners will not agree to negotiate if the Sudanese Government does not shelve the Islamic shari'a law and proclaim a secular law, Al-Bashir said: We have explained our view on the issue of the south. This issue can be settled only through negotiations. A military solution is absolutely out of the question. We have declared a cease-fire and general amnesty. We have permitted aid to enter the areas in the south, even those under the control of the southern movement.

Al-Bashir added: The brothers in the movement have made no conditions so far. Preconditions were made to previous governments. These were political maneuvers because those who ruled in Sudan were maneuvering. We have come with a new and clear view. The brothers in the movement have made no preconditions so far to negotiate with us.

Al-Bashir answered a question on his visualization of the political formula for Sudan which he will submit for his new regime. He said: The political formula must start with the institutions; these institutions will undoubtedly seek the people's help in the future so that they may share in the decisionmaking. This will be done through democratic and constitutional organizations. The new formula has not yet crystalized.

Answering a question on the start of peaceful negotiations regarding southern Sudan and which will be held in Ethiopia, Al-Bashir said: We have asked Ethiopia to convey a message from us to the leaders of the movement. We have not received an answer so far. According to our information, these leaders are meeting to discuss the message and make a decision. Then they will issue a statement. We are confident that the statement will be positive vis-a-vis the poltical solution.

Asked if President Mubarak will raise Sudan's economic problems during his discussions in Paris, Al-Bashir said: Definitely.

Asked about the new Sudanese leadership's view about a limited transitional period, Al-Bashir said: We have not yet decided on a limited transitional period. There are problems and we have come to solve them. We will then submit the question of the transitional period to the consitutional democratic organs so that they may share in making the decision.

Asked about Sudan's economic problem and what course it will take since the national salvation revolution assumed power, Al-Bashir said: The economic problem is one of our main problems. The first step in reforming the Sudanese economy is to solve the problem of the south and establish security. There can be no development if there is not security. We are confident that the state, citizens and the public sector will be able to reform the state of the Sudanese economy after the problem of the south is solved and after security prevails in all the provinces.

Answering a question on cooperation between Egypt and Sudan to solve the economic crisis in Sudan, President Husni Mubarak said: What is true is that economic cooperation between Egypt and Sudan will benefit both countries. We raised this issue before but there was no response. I believe that the new leadership, which has come to serve the people of Sudan, wants cooperation with Egypt and with all states in the interests of the Sudanese people. We welcome this cooperation in various fields, particularly in the agricultural field. This would be of great benefit to us and to Sudan. Sudan could prosper, though not overnight. Brother Lt Gen al-Bashir has just told me that there are vast agricultural areas in Sudan which could meet the Arab world's need for vegetables, fruit, and many agricultural products and solve many problems in Sudan and Egypt. They could also provide a surplus for export and bring in revenue for projects. I believe that cooperation in this field is very useful to Sudan. We will not hesitate to cooperate with Sudan in such fields.

Al-Bashir Departs Cairo

NC1207213689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, left Cairo tonight after a lightning visit to Egypt which lasted several hours. President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi were at the head of those who saw off Al-Bashir at Cairo Airport.

Further Reportage on 'Arafat's Visit to Cairo

Comments Upon Arrival

NC1207151489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1319 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis aboard a special plane this afternoon for a visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Receiving 'Arafat at the airport were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah movement representative in Cairo; and Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Upon his arrival at Cairo airport, 'Arafat commented on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue. He said: What happened inside our occupied land was no surprise to us. It was what I had expected from the beginning. We informed our brother Arab leaders at the Casablanca summit conference of Shamir's plan, which he wanted to use to gain time regarding the intifadah [uprising]. Therefore, he added, the summit's stand was clear in this respect. When a resolution was passed supporting the Palestinian position and the holding of elections in the occupied territories under the auspices of the United Nations after the Israeli forces have withdrawn on the condition that these elections are part of a just and comprehensive peace plan.

'Arafat added: What Arab circles had expected turned out to be true. Shamir unveiled his ugly face during the maneuvering which took place within his Likud Party. The Israeli prime minister adopted the real goal behind his fake peace initiative and the correctness of the Arab stand at the Casablanca summit proved to be right.

Replying to a question on the U.S. stand, 'Arafat said: I sincerely hope that the U.S. stand will not yield again to the new and false stand of the Israeli Government.

He noted that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement on the importance of convening an international peace conference is a positive development, which he hopes is genuine. This, he said, corresponds to the Casablanca Arab summit stand and with the recent EC summit declaration on the importance of the international conference and its assertion that elections should be part of a comprehensive peace process. The EC summit declaration, he added, also has guaranteed the Palestinian right and called for the need to include the PLO in all phases of the [peace] process.

The Palestinian president said that the Budapest declaration of the socialist countries had also asserted the need for an international conference and the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their soil, which would coexist in peace and security. This, he noted, confirms that the Palestinian cause is achieving gains in the international arena every day.

'Arafat disclosed that he has come to Egypt shortly before President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Paris to coordinate and agree with President Mubarak on the bases for future moves, especially because Mubarak will confer with a great number of world leaders during this visit.

He pointed out that there is an integration between the Egyptian and Palestinian positions, a coordination between Egypt and France regarding the Middle East, and a Palestinian-French coordination. All this, he said, will give momentum to the Palestinian cause during President Mubarak's forthcoming talks with President Francois Mitterrand.

'Arafat is accompanied by a Palestinian delegation made up of PLO Executive Committee members Salah Khalaf, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, and Mahmud Darwish.

Discussions Detailed

NC1207173389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—A 2-hour session of Egyptian-Palestinian discussions was held at the al-Andalus Palace this afternoon. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat chaired the Palestinian side to the discussions which were attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the Egyptian side.

The discussions dealt with the contacts which Egypt recently held with the United States and the parties concerned with the Middle East issue.

The discussions also dealt with the forthcoming Egyptian diplomatic drive during President Husni Mubarak's coming visit to France and with the Egyptian-PLO coordination for speeding up the convening of an international conference on Middle East peace with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

PLO's Kamal Cited on Talks

NC1207210489 Paris AFP in English 2035 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, July 12 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak succeeded Wednesday in defining a position to "counter Israeli tactics," a diplomat said quoting a top PLO official.

The talks between the two leaders were "frank and positive" and centered on the upcoming meetings of Mr. Mubarak with the presidents of France and the United States, according to Sa'id Kamal, Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Cairo.

The great powers must from now on be convinced of the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East, the diplomat quoted Mr. Kamal, who attended the talks, as saying.

The PLO has placed greater emphasis on its desire for an international conference since Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir last week accepted amendements to his peace plan from hardliners.

'Arafat is scheduled Thursday to join Mr. Mubarak at the Cairo Airport mosque, where they will observe 'Id al-Adha, which marks the end of the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca or hajj.

'Arafat Departs Cairo 13 Jul

NC1307070489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning following a 1-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. He was seen off at Cairo Airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and members of the PLO offices in Cairo.

Mubarak Leaves Cairo for Paris 13 Jul

NC1307065889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife left Cairo this morning for Paris to attend the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. An official delegation is accompanying Mubarak, including Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Faruq Husni, minister of culture; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Mahmud al-Biltaji, head of the Public Information Authority. Mubarak was seen off at Cairo Airport by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who accompanied the president after the 'Id al-Adha prayers to bid him farewell at the airport. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Interviewed on Sudan, Shamir Plan

JN1207172989 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jul 89 pp 3, 5

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Ibrahim Nafi' in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Nafi'] What is President Husni Mubarak's view of the great events in Sudan? What are the facts on the strain in relations between the two Nile valley states during the period leading up to the Sudanese Armed Forces taking power?

[Mubarak] In light of the historic reality which has governed the eternal relations of the two fraternal countries, it should be made perfectly clear that our relations with Sudan have always been very good. If one of the leaders of the two countries tries at some point to create a problem between the two brothers, it would be impossible to separate them from each other for 1 day. For my part, I continued to deal with Sudan in the best of ways, stemming from my full understanding of Sudan and the various issues affecting it. I have always had good relations with Sudan, even when I was in the Air Force and then later when I became vice president. This continued during my first term as president, and into the second. Here, I have to point out another deep-rooted fact: Never in our life have we, in Egypt, been used to, or known, to intervene in the internal affairs of any other state. We do not try to remove, establish, or reinstate any foreign leader. This is the business of the Sudanese people—something which we understand very well. We deal with legitimacy. Although our relations with Numayri were very good, this was not because of his person, but because he was president of Sudan. He was one of the people helping our good relations. We used to hold discussions with him constantly in the common interest of Egypt and Sudan.

When Siwar al-Dhahab's uprising took place and Numayri came here, we immediately asked them: Should we send Numayri back or convince him to return? They answered no. We immediately recognized the legitimate situation because it was Sudan's choice and not ours. We do not interfere in the affairs of Sudan or the affairs of any other country. After that, they made their next choice over Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's rule. We said well and good. I did not know him and had not met him before. I had only heard of him. I do not judge anyone by what I hear. It is only natural that someone tells you a great deal about such and such a person, and then you make a hasty opinion based on what you have heard. However, I always wait for their deeds. Either what I heard is verified, or it is mere nonsense to which I pay no attention.

Actually, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's behavior seemed strange to us. The first time I met him in Addis Ababa in June, 1986, he spent 1 hour and 15 minutes delivering a speech about foreign relations and how much he wished that these relations are good. I told him that I was doing my best to ensure that Egypt had good relations with all countries of the world. Then, he affirmed to me that he would put an end to the southern Sudan problem and the economic problems by the end of December; that is 6 months after our meeting. To tell you the truth, I was shocked. How can he achieve that in 6 months? However, I sincerely hoped that what he said would materialize. The better the shape Sudan is in, the happier and more relaxed we feel.

[Nafi'] Your Excellency had talks with Mengistu. What he told you, if my information is correct, was completely different from what Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi did?

[Mubarak] I had talks with Mengistu in Addis Ababa. When we began to discuss Sudan, I told him that I had been informed by the Sudanese prime minister that the misuderstanding between Ethiopia and Sudan was completely removed and that the southern Sudan problem will be finally resolved before December at the latest. Mengistu replied: I am sorry. The picture is completly different from what you have been told. I said: That is

strange. Mengistu explained the true state of affairs. He said the issue is not that easy, unless Al-Mahdi made it easy for himself, which is another story. I did not want to comment and continued to listen to Mengistu. My mediation with him was only for the sake of Sudan. They asked me to arrange a meeting between him and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. I talked to Mengistu about their request. He welcomed the request and affirmed he was ready for a meeting. However, a few days before the date of the meeting, the other side made a statement which complicated the situation and returned it to where it was before.

Once again, they asked to talk to Mengistu. I did not hesitate to respond to their requests despite what happened. Afterwards, Al-Mahdi's actions made him an enemy almost to the entire Arab nation. He visited many states. He visited Iran and the sight was too bad. The last country he visited was Egypt. He improved relations with Libya. Although we had no relations with Libya then, I told him that it was in our common interest to have relations and a state of good-neighborliness with Libya. I also told him that I wished our relations would be good as well. We want no more than that. I did not tell him, for example, no to an improvement in our relations with Libya. What is important is that a man should take into consideration the interest of his country before anything else.

However, we disagreed about the issue of Numayri. Al-Mahdi told me that Numayri was wanted by the Sudanese people because he had done many things. It could be understood from the rest of what he said that Numayri would be sentenced to death, or something like that.

I told him: Listen, first, I cannot extradite him because the Constitution does not allow it. Second, I proposed to send him to you the day the coup against him was carried out. The [Sudanese] officials refused then. It was a very strange thing to me. Moreover, I was astonished when I heard that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi brought a case against me at the State Council [as published]. I said: Well, you opted for the law, let us wait for its word, and do not speak about this issue. What is important is that the law did not appease him. The law made its decision based on truth, not appeasement, nor through the influence of anybody. We never do anything like that. We want our law to be independent and credible, so that no word is said about our law over any case, neither here nor abroad. The meeting with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi ended like that. He did not visit Egypt until a long time had elapsed.

Egypt is always ready to support Sudan in all fields. This does not mean that we give it everything, but we try to help it through our available sources and through our contacts with our brothers in the Western and Arab worlds. Sometimes, we use our contacts in favor of Sudan and the Sudanese people. In other words, we try to help it as much as we can.

When Al-Mahdi came on a visit to Egypt, I honored him more than any other personality, to the extent that I invited him to breakfast at my house. Perhaps I did that with only a few persons. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned to Sudan, but nothing changed. Egypt continued to be subjected to the same attack. There was a talk about the joint defense treaty. I met with him once and told him: My brother, cancel it, and I will cancel it 1 minute after you. I do not want to take the first move because you in Sudan will attack Egypt and say that Egypt has abolished the treaty and that Egypt has relinquished its responsibilities. You cancel it, and I will cancel it after you, and I will not become angry because there is nothing wrong in that. However, it was to no avail. The issue remained unsettled from 1986 until recently when he abolished the treaty, and sent us a letter to that effect only 1 month before he left his post.

[Nafi'] What are the most important issues raised in the letter?

[Mubarak] He said the defense agreement goes back to the defunct era. I was surprised. What had I to do with this? Do you want to insult the Sudanese people? I do not accept this letter. Contact the prime minister and tell him that you believe that the agreement does not serve your interests. You might also say—from one to his brother—the situation in the south necessitates that the agreement be canceled because the southerners want it and we hope that the Egyptian brothers will appreciate this to help ease the situation in the south. Egypt would not have objected because we care for Sudan's interests. Al-Mahdi said the agreement was signed in a high-handed way, that it did not gain anything for Sudan. I said it was the same method by which other Sudanese agreements were signed. In other words, we told him that he should not talk as if to the media or to promote his interests. I said: You have done nothing new, you have done nothing to us but we are eager to help. He said: Let us cancel the integration. We canceled the integration. I could not care less. When we established integration and joint defense, they themselves asked Al-Sadat to do it for Sudan's sake and not for Egypt's sake.

The joint defense agreement entails several commitments on Egypt's part—surely we would not hesitate to help even if there were no agreements. When they requested military teams and training courses we did not hesistate. We regarded our fates to be the same, our lifelines the same. We always were ready to extend what we are capable of extending. What we could not extend we tried to arrange from the East or the West, from the Arab or Islamic nations, or from the rest of the world. We never hesistated. In the meantime, Al-Mahdi used to involve Egypt's name in anything that happened in Sudan. Even when the officers sent him a memo, he blamed Egypt. I do not understand what we had to do with it. He acted as if he was telling the Sudanese people: I hate Egypt. He did not know that the people would thus abhor their rulers because the two fraternal peoples are aware of the eternal relations between them.

I do not want to discuss other unfortunate issues that followed this, such as the meaningless detention of simple fishermen with their boats. I said we do not hold anyone. They said that one crossed the border without permission. We said: Well, haven't the Sudanese people been crossing back and forth with their camels for a very long time? We have never caught any Sudanese and asked him how he entered. Moreover, their planes come and return fully laden. We never said anything. We have never had entry visas or any such requirements at all between us. At one time and during Numayri's rule, we issued Egyptian-Sudanese identification papers.

I tell you frankly that because of the frightening deterioration in Sudan, I had a feeling that something was going to happen because the country was going from bad to worse. Actually, I had nothing to do with the internal conditions in Sudan but in any case, Al-Mahdi was my neighbor and I agreed to have consultations with him. However, he involved Egypt's name in all his difficulties. When we mediated between him and Numayri, he would say Egypt is playing the mediation game and that I would embarrass it by making requests. He did not know that if he requested from me more than I could give, I would apologize. When I apologized he would tell the people that Egypt did not want to give.

This means he was deceiving the people. People are no fools. Therefore, I told him that I would be frank and would give you what I could. If I could not I would tell you I could not and there would be no hard feelings and you could look for it elsewhere. If I can I will help because you are a brother. However, he did not want to solve his problems and he did not want anybody to help him solve them. Whenever he was about to be thwarted, he would pretend to use Egypt in mediation with Mengistu. But he failed to meet Mengistu two or three times. Mengistu complained to me bitterly. I told our Sudanese brothers who repeatedly asked me to mediate: Is it reasonable that after we endeavored to help reach an agreement last November between the Unionist Party and [rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Movement leader John] Garang—and we would have rushed to assist even if the al-Ummah Party went to Addis Ababa and sought assistance because we do not deal with one party and forget the people—the Sudanese cabinet and the constitutional committees should approve it only in late March, 5 months during which fighting continued unabated? How many people were killed and how much did all this cost? In whose interest did this happen?

Had the intentions been honest and real to benefit from the agreement it would have been signed the next day. I said to their leaders: Is the al-Ummah Party delaying the signing of the agreement because the Democratic Unionist Party concluded it? Had the al-Ummah Party signed the agreement would the Unionist take the same stand? Sudan is more important, I told them.

However, Sudan was collapsing. Their main concern was to speak about democracy. The people will reject this democracy if it is not in the interest of the people. And the people rejected this democracy.

The revolution started and we had nothing to do with it. I heard about the coup Friday morning like any other citizen. Leaders were removed and others came to power. I said: Well, the new blood will stop the collapse. We do not interfere nor do we take part in any coup. However, we will help any government that assumes power and will consider it the will of the people. If we are asked to give advice, we will express our opinion, and it is up to them to take it or leave it. This is because Sudan is an independent and sovereign state and we do not interfere in its affairs.

[Nafi'] How does Your Excellency view future relations with the Revolution Command Council in Sudan which acknowledged your swift support for Sudan?

[Mubarak] So far, the relations are good. I hope they will improve. We will help Sudan as much as we can despite our difficult conditions. We will try to help them in the international arena and with our Arab brothers. Most of the Arabs—if not all of them—particularly in the Gulf states have reached a state of tension with Sudan because of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's stands on Iran and his visits to there. This is in addition to bringing a number of Iranians to Sudan while Iran was striking at Iraq and Kuwait. Despite this, we helped with what we could.

[Nafi'] After discussing in detail the Sudanese issue with the frankness which Mubarak's leadership is known for, the second issue we want to raise is the visit to France by the president in a few days and his meeting with President Mitterrand and leaders of the seven industrialized countries. The visit, of course, will deal with the Arab issues. Will the issue of the Third World debts be discussed during this visit, particularly since the Paris talks come a few days before the convening of the African summit?

[Mubarak] In these big international meetings the political issues are on the top of the agenda. If Egypt does not have a firm, clear, and public political stand in the international arena who will then care about us in the world? As much as you have political weight and influence in your region the others will support you. Our country has influence, history, and political weight. Hence, countries deal with us and help us. Why do America and France help us? They do so because there are common interests based on the fact that Egypt has a prominent position in the region and an ability to move on political and economic issues. I will meet in Paris with a number of the leaders of the seven industrialized countries and the developing countries. Of course, I will deal with the issues of peace in the Middle East, Lebanon, and the need to support Sudan. We will also discuss the current African problems. And this will, spontaneously, lead us to the issues of debts. I discussed these issues in the first speech I delivered at the UN General Assembly. I raised these issues also in Geneva, in the UNCTAD in the SFRY, and at the African summit. We will continue to raise the issue of debts because world opinion, including the Americans, is convinced that the

debts issue is a difficult one, and the time will come when many countries will be unable to repay their debts. And then how will they repay their debts?

I read an article written by an Egyptian expert, probably in AL-AHRAM, saying that the rich countries used to sell us the commodities that we imported at high prices when oil was sold for $40 per barrel. The expert added that these rich countries continue to sell us the commodities that we are importing at high prices even after the oil price dropped to $12, $14, or even to $6 per barrel. The expert went on to say that the difference arising from this process is increasing annually! We in Egypt used to repay debt installments from the earnings realized through the high-priced oil. Now, we have lost the enormous revenues after the decline in oil prices; whereas the big industrial nations have gained a great deal from it. Hence, these nations must lend a helping hand.

There is an annual increase in the prices of all imported commodities manufactured by these nations, while our revenues are decreasing. This situation will one day make most countries in the world, and not only Egypt, unable to repay their debts. Therefore, I say to the world that this issue must be raised. If we fail to repay our debts, who will purchase the products of the creditor industrial nations other than Third World nations like us? Production in the industrial nations will decrease when our imports from them decrease. Besides, when I fail to repay my debts, they will refrain from granting me loans. Consequently, I will not be able to buy from these nations, and this will prevent capital from circulating. As a result of this, factories will stop production and this will result in recession and unemployment. Then, the industrial nations will face big problems.

Thus, the industrial nations have to help bring about capital circulation and find a solution to the issue of large debts, especially our debts whose interest rate amounts to 14 or 15 percent. The interest rate used to be only 6 percent. Nowadays, we take a $4 billion or $5 billion loan and have to pay back $22 billion. From where do we get the money to pay back this loan? When we fail to repay high installments, we are forced to reschedule the repayment of the debts once again until economic reform is realized. I am sure that it is in the interest of the large industrial nations to help the debtor Third World countries stand on their feet so that the process can continue unhindered.

[Nafi'] The proposals being discussed are the following: Canceling debts or a part of them, reducing installments, or extending the time during which the debts are to be repaid. Which of these three proposals is deemed most appropriate for Egypt and the African states by the president?

[Mubarak] They [creditor nations] are getting more interest than they should. I am not saying that this terrible interest is to be canceled. What I am saying is that the circumstances of each country must be taken into account and that a solution must be found to the satisfaction of all parties and without overburdening us. If that happened, I would be able to repay my debts. This would be better than the creditors asking me to repay my debts when I am unable to; as this would lead to hatred among peoples. There must be a principle based on the need to cooperate and the [creditor] nations must be aware of the need for such a principle. I believe that France and the United States are aware of this fact. However, a step must be taken, not by Egypt only but by the entire Third World nations, including the countries of the African continent.

[Nafi'] Considering this fair demand of the African continent which will be conveyed to the big industrial nations during your forthcoming meeting with their leaders, what about the president's assessment, taking into acount that there is a consensus on your nomination for the OAU chairmanship, of the role being currently played by the OAU? And, what is your perspective regarding the role that the OAU might play in the future, particularly regarding inter-African cooperation?

[Mubarak] This organization is one of the best world organizations. It is a respectable organization and its leaders are respectable too. They speak frankly and decency is always observed in their conferences that tackle issues on the agenda of their annual meetings which are designed to remove misunderstandings that could have developed among some leaders throughout the past year. When the OAU summit is convened, all African leaders attend the summit, as they are aware of the importance of OAU summits. They shake hands and resolve their differences. The leaders attending previous summits made great efforts, as the problems were numerous. This is an undeniable fact. For my part, I will attempt during my 1-year OAU chairmanship to do my best to serve the interests of the African states on the debt issue and also on enhancing Arab-African cooperation.

[Nafi'] Of course, you will contribute greatly to the success of this great mission—that is, clearing the Arab atmosphere. This was achieved at the recent Casablanca summit. Tangible developments were also achieved in relations between Egypt on one hand and Syria and Libya on the other. However, questions are still raised on the reality and dimensions of these developments. We would like the president to explain this further.

[Mubarak] I met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and shook hands with him in Casablanca. He had some unclear information on some issues. I explained everything to him. He asked some question and I gave him detailed answers not out of begging, but out of the principle that we only seek good relations and neigborliness—nothing more or less. He spoke with me on reopening the border. I agreed on reopening it. Contacts with Libya have been continuing since then without any

problems. I cannot speak about future steps. I am not in a hurry, and I will leave each new step to take its time. And when we prove our seriousness, another step will be achieved.

[Nafi'] But, there are talks on arrangements to hold a early meeting.

[Mubarak] There was nothing in this regard. That was a speculation by a party paper. The paper says that we will meet in Cairo. And this was incorrect. We spoke. And he said: If anything emerges, I will drive in my car, speak with you over the telephone, and meet you on the border, God willing, or anywhere. I said to him: You are welcome.

I am flexible in this matter as long there is a general interest. I will bow in respect to anything that will benefit the people.

With regard to Syria, a meeting was held between me and President Hafiz al-Asad. After this, there was nothing between us. There is nothing at all between me and President al-Asad. And whether he will or will not restore relations, that is his own affair. When he wants to restore relations he will contact us and we will together prepare a joint statement. And if he does not contact us on this matter, nothing will cause any anger. I contacted him in Kuwait. We have had good relations for a long time. And many times, I reconciled him with Al-Sadat. Very great disagreements occurred between them. I intervened and spent long times with President al-Asad. We spent 7 hours at a meeting—from 1900 to 0200—and completely removed the misunderstanding.

[Nafi'] Have the contacts continued?

[Mubarak] The Egyptian lawyers had a good meeting with President al-Asad when they went to Damascus to attend the meeting of the Arab Lawyers Union. Despite everything, he is an Arab leader who honors his guests. I knew him well when he was here at the Inshas base.

[Nafi'] These useful remarks about clearing the Arab atmosphere and increasing the strength of the Arab position lead us to an important question on the Middle East peace efforts. How does President Mubarak see the picture now in view of the continuing Israeli intransigence despite all that the PLO has offered? Is there a genuine possibility for an early convocation of the international peace conference? What is the president's evaluation of the form the Shamir plan will take now that Egypt has asked Israel to make some clarifications about the plan?

[Mubarak] We are awaiting answers to our questions and reservations on certain points. The PLO has reservations and even the United States has reservations. They met within the Likud and differed among themselves and apparently they eventually submitted to the intransigent wing. The question now is: Does this mean a change in the Israeli Government plan? If so, then the elections idea has collapsed. However, all I say to them now is: Place the word "peace" in front of you; it is the dearest thing you can have.

[Nafi'] But they have complicated matters to the extent that the United States has accused them of hindering peace.

[Mubarak] They say that the initiative is merely a party statement, that the government did not approve it, and that the government is the legal, constitutional body that may accept or reject it. We are waiting to see. However, I tell Mr Shamir and those concerned in the Israeli Government—Arens and Peres—that peace deserves sacrifices. We should not remain intransigent, allowing the bloodletting to go on, be it on the Arab side or on the Israeli side. They are all human beings. We are the ones who can control this. I tell them: Put the peace concept in front of you because peace is ultimately the winner. We will discuss this issue with other states and in all world forums. What is important is that our position is clear; namely, that the Palestinians, including the Arabs of Jerusalem, must have the full right to participate in the elections; that no free elections are possible under the shadow of the military rule, and hence international supervision of the election process is necessary. The whole world rejects the continuation of building settlements because they are being built on a land that should be evacuated. This complicates the peace process.

[Nafi'] In conclusion, I think that this comprehensive view of Arab and international issues will be completed by asking the president his views on the future of Arab-Iranian relations in the post-Khomeyni era. Do you think that conditions in Iran now are conducive to a more moderate policy toward the Arab world?

[Mubarak] I always judge states by their actions, both during and after the Khomeyni era. We are watching Iranian policy. If Iran interferes in the internal affairs of its neighbors by inciting violence and fomenting trouble, then its policy will not succeed.

Editorial, Commentaries on Likud Plan Conditions

Matters to 'Square One'

JN1207140189 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Jul 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Comic End to a Tragedy"]

[Text] It has become clear to everyone that the curtain has been lowered on the farce of elections in the occupied Palestinian territory. The playwright, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, wanted to preoccupy world public opinion with this farce and make it abandon the call for convening an international conference to settle

the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in order to achieve peace in the Middle East, in which tension and instability prevail as a result of this conflict.

The last act, which the playwright tried to show he was not the only one to compose, was an irrational comedy, although the first acts showed that the farce was a tragedy, or was at least supposed to be. However, the final act, introduced at the last moment, made the audience receive the author and actors with sarcasm, rotten tomatoes, and stones.

Perhaps Washington, more than others, is the party most disappointed and frustrated by this end. It tried hard to propagate to the Arabs and the world's countries the plan of its ally Shamir on holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. It did so because it believed that the plan could be studied and that it was a step that would ultimately result in a kind of negotiations between Tel Aviv and representatives of the Palestinian people. The PLO expressed its readiness to accept the principle of elections in the occupied territory if the elections were covered by guarantees, particularly the withdrawal of the occupation forces and neutral international supervision of the elections.

However, the comic end Shamir chose for his plan, or the alleged peaceful initiative, has placed Washington in a very embarrassing position. This end will make it impossible to convince any party to accept the plan in the new guise which exposed all its negative points and weak spots. Thus, the Israeli prime minister has reversed matters to square one. And his big ally should search for another plan or method that will restore the international community's belief in the sincerity of Washington's intentions and the seriousness of its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East in its capacity as a full partner in this process.

Conditions Undermine Hopes

NC1307073789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: "Egyptian Diplomacy Is Exploiting Current Developments To Propel Peace Process"]

[Text] As part of its strenuous endeavors to achieve a comprehensive and permanent peace in the Middle East, Egypt yesterday officially informed the United States, as a full partner in the peace process in the region, of its rejection of the conditions that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir alleged that he was forced, under pressure from the intransigent wing of the Likud bloc, to append to his plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Proceeding from Egypt's awareness that there is an urgent need to intensify consultations with the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, summoned U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner yesterday and informed him that Shamir's position complicates and endangers the peace process. Obviously, Shamir is trying to delude the international community into believing that he presented proposals that would lead to the attainment of peace. In fact, he knows full well that his proposals are rejected, not only by the Palestinian and Arab parties, but also by the entire international community and even by the United States, which declared that Shamir's stand may compel it to consider the idea of an international conference. Egyptian diplomacy has long focused on the idea of convening an international conference, in the belief that it has become the only acceptable way to reach a solution of the Arab-Israel conflict under the canopy of international legality.

It is no wonder that in his forthcoming consultations with many world leaders in Paris, President Mubarak will focus on mobilizing international efforts to convene an international conference. When he submitted his plan, Shamir claimed that it would serve the long-awaited goal; that is, the establishment of peace in the region. Although Shamir's plan did not contain the elements that might have prompted the Palestinians to agree to it, Egypt did not reject it completely. Mubarak declared then that Israel must clarify several points. Indeed, he sent Israel 10 queries. What is surprising, however, is the fact that Israel revealed its intentions. The conditions appended to the plan made it clear that Israel is not at all serious in joining the peace process. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid specifically underlined this point in his meeting with Ambassador Wisner. Undoubtedly, the latest Israeli conditions have emptied Shamir's plan of any content that might have formed the nucleus of a process to promote and reach the goal that Shamir allegedly sought of achieving peace between the Arabs and the Israelis.

It is obvious from a cursory glance at these conditions that they are intended to torpedo the hopes that could be discerned on the horizon of achieving a settlement. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday emphasized this point in particular, when he stated that, with the addition of the latest conditions, Shamir's plan had become meaningless. Needless to say, Shamir ought not to have given in to the intransigent members of his party if he was really serious about proceeding on the path toward a settlement. This is because he is fully aware that the Palestinian and Arab parties will not accept these conditions and that therefore the process will reach a deadlock, as Washington made clear in commenting on the Likud's position. Given these developments, Egyptian diplomacy will concentrate on launching speedy moves on all levels to back the Arab stand, particularly since all Israeli claims are collapsing. The United States seems to have realized that the plan that Shamir drew up in order to replace the idea of an international conference has become irrelevant, and may reconsider its stand and support the idea of an international conference.

Changes to Elections Assailed

NC1307100689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Ahmad Sha Sha'ban commentary: "The Likud Bloc's Conditions and No's Obstruct or Even Torpedo Shamir's Plan"]

[Text] Egyp Egypt has had reservations about Shamir's initiative on elec elections in the occupied territories ever since it was annou nounced. It also had some questions and sought Israel's ans answers to them. Egypt does not reject the idea of elections in ns in principle. But it has reservations regarding certain elen elements of the plan and it requested answers to these. Ther Then came the recent Likud bloc decision to change and and amend the initiative, and to specify conditions and ' nd "no's" which could not be accepted on the Palestinian nian, Arab, or international levels. These conditions, as P as President Mubarak has stated, could torpedo the idea of a of elections completely.

Shamir's su 's submission to or acceptance of the demands of the hardlin rdline faction of the Likud bloc has produced extensive r ve reaction in Israel and the world. The "no's" which Sham Shamir added to his plan, particularly the "no" to elections be ns before an end to the intifadah [uprising], the "no" to the o the participation of Jerusalem residents in the elections, th ns, the "no" to negotiations with the PLO, and the "no" to the o the establishment of a Palestinian state—these "no's" and and conditions cannot be accepted. They are rejected ev d even in Israel itself. The Shinuy and Shas movements ents have called on Shim'on Peres and the Alignment minis ninisters to withdraw from the government and dissolve the e the existing coalition with the Likud in response to Likud's r d's recent decision. Several parties also submitted motions of s of no confidence in the government. It is true that the Kn e Knesset rejected the seven motions of no confidence, but t but they show the effect of the changes which the Likud bloc bloc has made in the initiative on the Israeli people. The The Labor Party also adopted a decision by an overwhelmi elming majority, calling for withdrawal from the national un al unity government. This is with regard to the Israeli side. side.

If we disreg isregard this and turn to the amendments which Shamir ma made in his plan, we will find that they have raised quest questions on the part of the U.S. Administration. U.S. Secret ecretary of State James Baker has stated that Washington gton has reservations and questions about Israel's seri serious commitment to the initiative. He added that the Un United States will send a delegation or envoy to Israel to de o determine the extent of Israel's commitment and honesty nesty with regard to its position on elections.

The interna ternal Israeli reactions and the foreign reactions manifested sted in the international rejection of Shamir's amendment ments to his plan as contained in the EEC statement and of nd others underline international rejection of this new Israeli aeli position. It must be noted here that only the principle of elections in Shamir's original plan was acceptable. As for the details, Egypt had reservations and questions which it conveyed to Israel. It is still awaiting a response to them.

Israel and the Shamir government—if it wants its plan to succeed—must respond to the reservations and questions and abandon its conditions and "no's." Then and only then can elections take place in the hope of achieving a just solution to the whole problem.

Editorial Views Effects of Intifadah Strikes

JN1207144389 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 89 p 6

[Editorial: "The Sun of the Intifadah"]

[Text] A comprehensive strike was observed in the occupied territories to mark the beginning of the 20th month of the heroic intifadah [uprising]. It is not the first strike, and will most likely not be the last, because of the escalating Israeli intransigence. Definitely, strikes are popular events that have positive effects both inside and outside the occupied territories. These effects can be summarized as follows:

First: More losses for the Israeli economy, whose losses have so far exceeded $1 billion as a result of the paralysis affecting activities inside Israel itself, a drop in production, and an increase in the expense of confronting the intifadah activities. This in addition to the continued partial mobilization of Israeli troops.

Second: Further splits in Israeli public opinion, which is now swinging between the call for negotiations with the Palestinians or continuing measures of repression, displacement, and deportations.

Third: Approaching the realization of the dream of an independent Palestinian state, which is a nightmare for the Jewish settlers, in addition to the intifadah, which has proved to be a good seed for a Palestinian state and which has managed to form popular committees that run the affairs of Palestinian daily life. The experience of these committees has been monitored by the U.S. press, which affirmed that the Palestinian flag and portraits of Yasir 'Arafat and Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] are hung everywhere.

Fourth: Increasing international public opinion's sympathy with the Palestinian people and shifting the world's view of the dispute toward truth. This fact is visible in the international arena and continues to gain further momentum.

While hailing the Palestinian intifadah on its 20th month, we affirm that these positive effects have been achieved by the blood of martyrs and courage of heroes

in the occupied territories. They have also been achieved thanks to the Arab support and solidarity and the intensive activity of the sincere Arab leaders outside the occupied territories.

Editorial on 'Significance' of Bus Incident

JN1207145089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jul 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Incident's Significance"]

[Text] Israel is at a serious impasse following the government's difficulties in the wake of the problems engendered by politics and violence—difficulties that were actually caused by these problems.

The anger that spread throughout Israel after the bus incident did not allow anybody to analyze the incident. While the incident is naturally a tragedy because of its magnitude, there are indications that it was done on the spur of the moment. The youth who perpetrated it may have undergone a sudden mental breakdown because he and his father were among the victims. However, the incident had its roots in the oppression he and his family were facing in the al-Nusayrat camp. Even if it were premeditated, it shows that the perpetrator was waiting, seeking any opportunity to mount a retaliatory operation because of the demoralization which he had undergone as a result of Israeli repression against him and his family. Eventually, he found an opportunity to carry out an act that is almost impossible to conceive.

Perhaps this is what provoked the anger, because what happened has proved that incidents are inevitable no matter how tight security measures might be. No country in the world is able to impose absolute control on individuals, especially those who have had no experience with terrorism, as the Israelis put it. Therefore, no comprehensive guarantee is possible unless security becomes a law applicable to both sides and supervised by the occupying side. Nevertheless, all indications and investigations prove that the occupying side is the one that violates this rule by its tyranny. Furthermore, genuine security cannot be dissociated from military measures except through political guarantees that establish the rights of both sides.

But it seems that events have reached the point of no return with the result that those in Israel who speak of easing the iron-fist policy and opting for a reasonable peaceful solution are either dreaming or deluded, contrary to the situation some months ago when this trend prevailed in various circles and among senior officials. The Israeli demonstrators who intended to kill Peres saw something in his relatively moderate stand that did not suit Israel's dignity. These judgments and the practices that follow them show that the calls for rationality that had been filling the air have been silenced almost to the extent that anyone raising them now is accused of treason in this demagogic climate.

Perhaps the postponement of the Labor Party's withdrawal from the government in protest against Likud's hawkish approach can be explained in light of this demagogic climate.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Not Opposed to 'Separation' of South

NC1307101789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation and Sudanese prime minister, has declared that he would not object to the separation of southern Sudan if the people of the south so decided and that he would accept a federal system of government if they decided on that. He noted that a military solution to the problem is the last stage in diplomatic action. He expressed his hope that the John Garang government [as received] will respond positively to the RCC initiative in the next 2 days.

In a statement to AL-KHALIJ newspaper published in Al-Shariqah today, Lt Gen al-Bashir said that Sudan is an Arab-African country with varying cultures. It has an Arab race and a Negro race, Christians and Muslims. Therefore, we cannot say that Sudan is an Arab Muslim country, an Arab-African Muslim country, or an Arab-African Christian country he said. It is an Afro-Arab country that combines several cultures and races and we must recognize these variations. However, we do agree that we are a people living in one country, he declared.

Al-Bashir said that if the southern parties fail to agree on a solution to the problem of the south, it means that we will not reach a final settlement. He said that if they agree on separation, we will not object to that. If they agree on a federal system, we will not object, and if they agree on a regional system or think that the south should be once province, we will not object. What is important is that they should agree on a formula for a solution, and we are ready to accept it, he asserted.

Delegation Fails To Meet Rebels in Addis Ababa

NC1207182789 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, July 12 (AFP)—A Sudanese Government delegation left here for home Wednesday after an overnight visit to Ethiopia during which it met President Mengistu Haile Mariam, but apparently failed to make contact with the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The head of the delegation, Lieutenant-Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, had said earlier Wednesday that the party would stay over in Addis Ababa for another day.

No explanation was immediately available for its sudden departure, though rebel sources said a meeting had not been scheduled with them in any case.

Col. Khalifah, a member of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Tuesday taht his main mission was to meet Ethiopian leaders but that he also expected to make contat with the SPLA.

He bore a letter from the new rulers in Khartoum for SPLA commander John Garang, he said.

What happened to that letter now seems a mystery if the government delegation indeed left the Ethiopian capital without meeting with the rebels.

However, its mission to the Ethiopian leadership appears to have succeeded, President Mengistu having accepted to mediate between the Sudanese Government and the SPLA to end the six-year civil war in the country.

A message from junta President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, delivered to the Ethiopian leader Tuesday, had sought just that, according to Col. Khalifah.

RCC Chairman Meets Former Defense Minister

EA1207171489 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, has received General (Rtd) 'Abd-al-Majid Hamid Khalil, the former defense minister, who congratulated him on the beginning of the revolution, expressing his support for it and giving his blessing to the steps taken by the council. He expressed confidence that the revolution would succeed in attaining its declared objectives.

Lt Gen 'Umar today also met a delegation representing the family of [the late] Sayyid al-Hadi al-Mahdi, which expressed total support for the national salvation revolution.

Al-Bashir Meets With Kenyan Envoy 12 Jul

EA1207182689 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir, has met the Kenyan charge d'affaires in Khartoum. Al-Bashir explained the situation in Sudan and handed over a letter for the Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, in which he expressed hope that bilateral relations would be promoted. The letter gave an assurance that the ministerial committees were working actively on their tasks and added that the council would delegate one of its members to go to Kenya to brief the Kenyan president on the objectives of the revolution. The letter also contained greetings from the chairman and members of the RCC, and the Sudanese people to the leaders of Kenya and the Kenyan people.

RCC Urges Expatriates To Support Revolution

NC1207132389 Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, July 12 (MENA)—Commodore Salah al-Din Karar, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the economic mission of the council, today called on the Sudanese expatriates to help save the country.

In a statement released today and addressed to the expatriates, he pointed out that the national salvation revolution erupted for a united and strong Sudan, affirming that will not be achieved without financial support from the Sudanese expatriates.

He affirmed that the Sudanese savings will be turned into giant institutions that will build Sudan of the future.

RCC Member Returns From Juba 10 Jul

EA1107170789 Omdurman Dometic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, returned to Khartoum after a visit to Equatoria Region during which he briefed the officers and men of the Equatoria Military Area on the latest situation and developments in the country and the objectives for the sake of which the national salvation revolution was mounted. His excellency also acquainted himself with the security situation in the region.

The visit included Juba, where he met the commander of the Equatoria Military Area and the regional military governor, Staff Major General Allison (Masani) Magaya, who conveyed to him the support of the officers, men, and citizens of the region for the national salvation revolution. He also briefed him on the steps taken to alleviate the sufferings of the citizens in the area. The tour also embraced the town of Yambio, where his excellency inspected the provincial headquarters, the hospital, and the secondary school.

Addressing a mass rally of the citizens, his excellency spoke about the revolution's eagerness to achieve peace, halt the deterioration of the economy, and combat corruption and evildoers. At the command of the 13th Brigade at Maridi, Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the RCC, met the officials and the troops whom he briefed on the objectives of the national salvation revolution. During the meeting, the tasks of the 13th Brigade were also discussed [words indistinct]. The RCC member's visit to Equatoria Region lasted 3 days. He was accompanied by a number of the General Command of the People's Armed Forces.

Staff Maj Gen Allison (Masani) Magaya, the governor of Equatoria Region, meanwhile, has directed an appeal to all the citizens of the region currently residing in the national capital to return to Juba within a period of not longer than 1 month from now, to resume their activities in the region. He said that any citizen who does not respond to this appeal will be regarded as redundant.

New Committees, Courts Appointed 10 Jul

EA1107190989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation today issued decrees appointing the investigation committees, the special courts in the national capital, and the appeals court. Here now are the decrees:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: In accordance with the path adopted by the salvation revolution to try comprehensively the practices of the defunct era, thus to uphold the rights of the people by acting against all transgressors and those who trifled with their resources, the RCC has decided to form three investigation committees to deal with financial malpractices, contraventions of administrative and commercial licences and land malpractices at the level of the central authority, throughout the country, in the period between May 1986 and the national salvation revolution.

The council has extended its competences to the commissioner of the national capital and the regional governors to form equivalent committees. The council has also decided to establish an (?emergency) secretariat at the office of the chairman of the RCC to receive the complaints of the citizens on injustices done to them and whatever documents of evidence may be in their possession with regard to the practices of officials during that period.

The secretariat shall deal with all these complaints and documents and distribute them to the relevant committees. I call on all the officials in the various departments to provide the committees with the necessary administrative services and to make available to them everything they require in the way of documents, explanations, and information. I also call upon the citizens to cooperate with the relevant quarters to uncover mistakes and identify their perpetrators so that the culprits can be called to account.

I also hope that there will be no resorting to personal or political [word indistinct], for that is not the [word indistinct] of the revolution or its [word indistinct]. There will be complete [words indistinct] at the end of the specified (?period) when the innocent will be released and the accused will receive a fair trial and an appropriate punishment, devoid of oppression or hostility.

1. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Decree on the appointment of the investigation committees:

a. I, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC, by virtue of the authority vested in me [word indistinct] decree the appointment of the Investigation Committees of 1989. I appoint the following investigation committees in accordance with what has be laid down for each committee:

1) Committee to investigate financial and administrative malpractices:
—Colonel Atif Awad Ajari, chairman.
—Police Colonel 'Abd-al-Mun'im Muhammad Salih, member.
—Mr 'Izz al-Din Ibrahim Muhammad of the attorney general's chambers, member.
—Mr Ahmad 'Ali Atiyyah of the auditor general's office, member.

2) Committee to investigate malpractices in lands:
—Staff Brigadier Muhammad al-Hasan Sulayman, chairman.
—Police Major Nur Fomi Nasir, member.
—[Word indistinct] Ahmad Ayyub of the attorney general's office, member.
—Mr Zayd 'Ali Ibrahim of the auditor general's office, member

3) Committee to investigate malpractices in trade licences and permits:
—Brigadier Awad al-Dhawi, chairman
—Police Major 'Umar Gharibullah, member.
—Mr 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad Ibrahim of the attorney general's office, member.
—Al-Zayn Salah al-Din Muhammad 'Uthman of the auditor general's office, member.

b. The committees will start work immediately, in accordance with the authority vested in them in Article 3 of the decree appointing the investigation committees of 1989 and Article 138 of the criminal proceedings law, in accordance with the authorization issued by the minister of interior and the attorney general.

[Signed] Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and prime minister

[Dated] 7 Dhu'l-hijjah 1409 A.H., corresponding to 10 July 1989 A.D.

2. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Special courts formation decree:

a. I, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC, by virtue of the authority vested in me under article 2/A of the law providing for the formation of special courts of 1989, and Article 40 of the Emergency Ordinance of 1986, order the formation of the special courts in the national capital as follows:

1) Special Court Number 1, Khartoum:
—Staff Colonel Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, chairman.
—Colonel Taha 'Umar al-Ubayd, member.
—Legal Colonel Ahmad Adam 'Uthman, member.

2) Special Court Number 2, Khartoum Bahri:
—Colonel Azhari 'Uthman Ubaydullah, chairman.
—Staff Colonel Haj Ahmad al-Jayli, member.
—Staff Colonel Mustafa 'Abd-al-Majid, member.

3) Special Court Number 3, Omdurman:
—Staff Colonel Salah Muhammad Ahmad al-Amin, chairman.
—Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Hamad al-Nil, member.
—Legal Colonel (?Hakim al-Wasil) al-Salmani, member.

b. These courts will rule on those cases specified in Article 3-A of the law governing the formation of special courts of 1989 and on any cases directed to them by order of the RCC.

c. All the courts will start work immediately at venues to be determined by the relevant authorities.

d. The special courts will proceed in accordance with Articles 3-A and 3-B of the law governing the formation of special courts of 1989.

[Signed] Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC

[Dated] 7 Dhu'l-hijjah 1409 A.H., corresponding to 10 July 1989 A.D.

3. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

a. I, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC, by virtue of the authority vested in me under article 2-B of the law providing for the formation of special courts of 1989, order the formation of the special appeals court in the national capital as follows:

Special appeals court in the national capital:
—Staff Colonel Ibrahim Rashid, chairman.
—Engineer Colonel 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad 'Uthman, member.
—Legal Staff Colonel Mirghani 'Abdallah al-Bili, member.

b. The court will start work immediately at a venue to be determined by the relevant authorities.

c. The court will proceed as specified in the Criminal Proceedings Law of 1983 and will have the same appeals jurisdiction as laid down in the aforementioned law.

[Signed] Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC

[Dated] 7 Dhu'l-hijjah 1409 A.H., corresponding to 10 July 1989 A.D.

The chairmen and members of these courts and committees are requested to attend an important meeting on Tuesday, 11 July 1989 at 1700 [1500 GMT] at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces. May God support you in defending this homeland and may the revolution be everlasting, God willing. [end recording]

Rules on Rents Received in Foreign Currency
EA1207132489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] The Economic Committee of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation has issued the following statement: It has recently become apparent that many citizens are leasing their buildings to foreign embassies, companies, and individuals for foreign currency and that some receive their rents in cash in convertible currencies [umalat hurrah].

The Economic Committee of the RCC announces to all landlords who let their buildings to any quarter whatsoever in return for convertible currencies that they will be required to furnish the following details:
1) Number and address of the building.
2) Identity of the occupant.
3) Amount of the rent.
4) Copy of the lease.
5) Manner of payment of rent and type of currency.
6) Name of the beneficiary.

The required information must reach the Secretariat of the Economic Committee at the offices of the Council of Ministers before 20 July 1989. Anyone who contravenes this instruction, provides false information or withholds information will be liable to punishment as laid down in the Emergency Ordinance of 1989.

[Signed] Captain al-Fatih Awad Abdullah, member of the Economic Commitee of the RCC

London Paper Interviews Gen al-Bashir
PM0707192189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 5

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Hisham] You have described your movement as a national movement but your movement has been accused of having certain political affiliations. What is your comment?

[Al-Bashir] That kind of talk will never stop. It is natural because people always speak of political affiliations and they infer that we have a certain political color. However, formation of this grouping of officers who have

seized power began around the end of the Numayri regime and before the emergence of the National Islamic Front [NIF] which some claim we belong to. The factors which brought these officers together were culture, honesty, love of the homeland, and rejection of partisanship. When we began planning our operations, there were no parties and we did not plan to have parties.

When the April 1985 uprising occurred, we played a major part in supporting it, rejecting the emergency law, and opposing an Army move to the streets to strike at the Sudanese masses. We put pressure on the former military command to act and threatened that if it did not make a decision we would seize power. That is how the uprising occurred and how power was seized.

[Hisham] What was your role during the transitional period after the uprising?

[Al-Bashir] During the uprising, our main role was to protect the regime which various sides wanted to bring down by military means. We were successful. Our view at the beginning of the uprising was that there should be a transitional period followed by a democratic government, and that is what happened and was carried out. The difference between our concept—that is, the officers' concept—and that of the national grouping was that the latter wanted to hand power over to the nascent forces while we thought that it should be handed over to the parties on the grounds that the parties had been in the opposition for 16 years, enough time to have a clear vision and ready programs because, when one is in the opposition, one is supposed to have alternatives.

We had great confidence in Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and all the leading political figures in the arena at the time. Our faith in Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in particular was great. We had known him from the beginning when he emerged as a young man from al-Ummah Party who rejected sectarianism and had clear liberal views. He also was prime minister 20 years before the uprising. All that made us confident that these people would lead Sudan to safety.

When he assumed power, we were the happiest of all people, but then were surprised by the political maneuvers, the numerous cabinet formations, and the corruption. We then felt that that was not the regime that we and the Sudanese people had aspired to.

That situation continued until we became sure that all the Sudanese people saw a need for change. So, when we made the change, it was in response to the will of the Sudanese people. There was no other reason and no personal or partisan interest. We believe that all parties without exception are bad to varying degrees because they all maneuver. Even the principles they upheld were used for party or personal gains. There was no clarity in anything they proposed. There was dirty profiteering even when it came to the question of Islamic shari'a and that was a disservice to the shari'a, making enemies for it throughout the world. We reject all such practices. We are clean Sudanese people and, God willing, ours will be a clean Sudanese experiment that will move Sudan forward.

[Hisham] Apparently, you were not among the officers who signed last February's Armed Forces memorandum and you did not approve its context because it was seen as a commitment to work within constitutional legitimacy. How can we reconcile this position with your assertion that all the Armed Forces and officers participated in seizing power?

[Al-Bashir] I actually did not attend the signing of that memorandum because I was in southern Sudan. Although I had some reservations about the memorandum, we still supported it and saw it as a good step in the right direction.

I believe that the memorandum's commitment to constitutional legitimacy was somewhat hypocritical or reflected hesitation. The military command at the time did not wish to assume power and so had to find a pretext for not doing so. Therefore, that stipulation is linked to that command. As far as we and the rest of the officers were concerned, what was needed was seizure of power. Some were enthusiastically in favor of immediate seizure but in the end were convinced of the command's view and they signed the memorandum. A proof of what I said about unanimous support for overthrowing the regime is the fact that the former commander in chief has told me personally: "What you have done now is what we should have done, and I congratulate you."

[Hisham] Does this have anything to do with the fact that numerous senior officers were relieved of their duties in the process of seizing power?

[Al-Bashir] The fact that some brother officers of certain ranks were relieved of their duties has nothing to do with that. The aim was to secure the first movements of the process of seizing power. The move against them was made because of their posts and positions. It was a move to secure the movement in its early stages.

[Hisham] Six days have passed since you assumed power but no civilian government has been formed yet although consultations are under way. When will the [cabinet] formation be announced?

[Al-Bashir] I cannot say that the consultations have started because we are still at the stage of nominating candidates. We will nominate three names for each post and then we will begin contacting the individuals concerned. We have not consulted anyone in this connection but general views were taken as to the shape of government. The first side we contacted in this connection for an opinion was the National Grouping. As to when the cabinet will be formed, we are in no hurry because we want a cabinet that will be satisfactory to the Sudanese people.

[Hisham] Did you discuss with the grouping the type of democratic practice to be followed, bearing in mind that the grouping operated within the former regime.

[Al-Bashir] Our consultations with the grouping were mainly on the form of government. As regards the democratic system, that is a matter open to discussion and deliberation because after a short while we intend to issue a press and publication law and license newspapers because the press mirrors public opinion and proposes solutions for general problems.

[Hisham] What kind of democratic practice do you want?

[Al-Bashir] We in the Armed Forces, as well as the National Grouping and some figures who played an effective part in the uprising, feel that the Sudanese people love freedom and we are eager to guarantee them their freedom and their freedom of expression, but we want a guided democracy not anarchy as in the past. We do not want parties and we reject sectarianism.

[Hisham] You have announced your commitment to dialogue with Garang's movement knowing the movement's demands. What is your position on these demands?

[Al-Bashir] We will start an unconditional dialogue with the movement. We do not want conditions to be dictated to us and we do not want to impose any conditions. If they have demands, they should submit them and we will submit ours, and we go to the negotiating table to discuss them. We are confident that we and Garang's movement can find a solution because we are parts of a whole which has been exposed to division. We can understand one another because we are all military people and we speak the same language. Some of them were with us in the Armed Forces. They were our colleagues, but because of certain subjective circumstances and personal convictions they seceded and they began to fight us. We and they are living in a jungle fighting each other. We understand each other and because of that we do not want any preconditions because that would be maneuvering and the only maneuvers we know are in the military field.

[Hisham] Have you initiated any contacts with them?

[Al-Bashir] Officially, we have not made any contacts so far but we have contacted some circles which can reach them to arrange for a meeting and dialogue with them [Garang movement]. We will contact them soon, very very soon and once that contact is made we will not need any third party to sit with us.

[Hisham] How would you describe your relations with the Anyanya-2 movement and how do you explain your call for the dissolution of the militias?

[Al-Bashir] There are two kinds of militia: Party militia and militia created by the circumstances of the war in the south, people whom the government failed to give security in their own areas so they took up arms to defend themselves and their property. The latter became a fait accompli and was born out of necessity. As we proceed to solve the problem of the south, we will find that there is no longer any need for such militia and we will have a plan to end their existence.

[Hisham] What do you expect of the delegations you sent abroad?

[Al-Bashir] The reason for sending the delegations is to pay greetings and courtesy, and also to convey gratitude to these fraternal states for their support and seek their views based on their experience and capabilities, for we need to consult with them and to ask for urgent aid because of the surprisingly grave deterioration in many fields.

[Hisham] There are rumors that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has actually been arrested but his arrest has been kept secret. What is your comment?

[Al-Bashir] Al-Sadiq has not been arrested. We believe he will give himself up in the next 2 days because all his routes have been blocked. His interior minister, Mubarak al-Mahdi, has also not been arrested yet.

[Hisham] How do view the people's reaction, so far confined to individuals?

[Al-Bashir] We have left no institution intact. All popular and political insitutions have been dissolved. So there can be no talk of institutional reaction. We did not expect the support of these [institutions] anyway. We believe that what we have done is for our brothers in the federations and unions, and they know it because we acted to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people of whom they are the base.

Western Sahara

Proposals for Reconciliation With Morocco Noted

LD1207221189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Regarding the comprehensive settlement of the Saharan issue, Bashir Mustafa al-Sayyid, Polisario official in charge of external relations, held a news conference at which he spoke about the current situation and its developments with the aim of moving the two sides to the conflict toward a principled readiness for clarification of attitudes, toward the removal of outstanding issues, and toward the concentration of efforts to crown the dynamism of final and comprehensive reconciliation and embarkation on the implentation of the peace plan in the region.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Can we know what the Saharan side presented as a final and comprehensive settlement of the Saharan issue and what the Moroccan side presented?

[Bashir] It can be said that the current new stage in the Moroccan-Saharan conflict is characterized first, by the two sides accepting in principle the proposals of the UN secretary general and by the first meeting between the king of Morocco and the Saharans. The current stage involves the removal of the remaining obstacles to the plan for a peaceful settlement of the UN secretary general and the OAU secretary general. Naturally, the Saharans for their part have spared no effort in crowing the reconciliation and the rapprochement in the region, as they have presented proposals and made important, responsible concessions to encourage Morocco to advance and enter a final settlement of the conflict.

The Saharan side has made undertakings to Morocco pertaining to future relations, whose main elements are the undertaking to develop distinguished relations with the Kingdom of Morocco and not to accept any foreign presence in Western Sahara. Also, the Saharan side proposed to the king of Morocco the joint exploitation of resources. It proposed to the king of Morocco the search for a settlement to the issue of the Moroccan settlers on the soil of the Saharan Republic and, more than this, to the issue of finding a happy and honorable end to these sensitive matters. [end recording]

Bahrain

Defense Chief Inquires About Mecca Explosions

JN1207162089 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, July 12 (GNA)—Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz received a telephone call today from Bahrain Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah to inquire about the malicious crime which targeted the sanctity of the holy places and the security of pilgrims.

The Bahraini crown prince expressed Bahrain's support to efforts being exerted by Saudi Arabia to provide pilgrims with security.

Shaykh Hamad voiced conviction that Saudi Arabia under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz was capable to confront any attempt aimed at its stability, security and prosperity.

Prince Sultan expressed thanks and appreciation for Shaykh Hamad for his feelings and assured him that Saudi efforts to serve Islam would not be impeded by terrorist acts.

Kuwait

Lebanese Defense Minister Sees End to Crisis

LD1307093189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0845 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 13 (KUNA)—Lebanon's defence minister said in press statements here Thursday that the Lebanese crisis is nearing its end and that normalisation is within reach.

'Hindering a settlement in Lebanon by some is possible but blocking it is out of question.' Said 'Adil 'Usayran in statements published by AL-WATAN newspaper.

He described resolutions of the Arab tripartite higher committee on Lebanon during a recent meeting in the Algerian town of Oran as reflecting a determined effort to go ahead in a settlement until the end.

On the proposed meeting of parliament outside Lebanon, 'Usayran said the step was neither unconstitutional nor contravenes internal rules and praised decision by the Lebanese National Front to re-open crossing points and Beirut's airport.

He doubted seriousness of threats made by head of Lebanon's military interim government General Michel 'Awn, saying 'Awn only wants to remind concerned parties that 'he is still a presidential candidate'.

'Usayran praised efforts of Arab League mediator Lakhdar al-Ibrahimi, descriibng him as a shrewd and seasoned politician, and hoped him success in the Lebanon assignment.

Commenting on the recent security deterioration in Beirut, the official blamed 'those standing to lose their status and previliges realized in 15 years of war' for the lapse, warning that 'peace will not forgive' its opponents.

Oman

Sultanate Denounces 10 Jul Mecca Explosions

JN1207135389 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Sultanate of Oman expresses its deep regret over the criminal explosions aimed against the sanctity and security of the holy mosque and its pious pilgrims and which killed one pilgrim and injured 16 others.

The Sultanate of Oman, while expressing its condemnation and rejection of this crime—which contradicts the values of the true Islamic religion—has full confidence in the the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's measures and abilities to provide the pilgrims with an atmosphere of security and peace of mind while performing their religious rites.

Government Signs Ports Agreement With Japan

JN1207153389 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpt] As part of the technical cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Japanese Government, an agreement was signed at noon today at the Ministry of Transport on preparing a structural plan for ports in the Sultanate. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Sultanate's government by His Excellency Communications Minister Hamud Ibn-'Abdallah al-Harithi and for the Japanese by (Mr Kroda), head of the technical team, on behalf of the Japanese International Agency for Technical Cooperation, (JAICAR). [passage omitted]

PDRY

Foreign Minister on Relations With Egypt, Unity

JN1307080389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jul 89 p 4

[By 'Abd-al-Jawad Ghayt]

[Excerpts] Aden—When Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], invited me to his home on the top of a hill overlooking the point at which the Gulf of Aden meets the Indian Ocean, I sensed that through this

invitation the man wanted to express the feelings of brotherhood and amity that link the fraternal peoples of Egypt and the PDRY. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali said: There is no need to reemphasize the strong relations between Egypt and the PDRY. However, I would like to emphasize today that, to consolidate cooperation and coordination between the two countries, we need to expedite the reinvigoration of the bilateral agreements that have been concluded between the two fraternal countries in various fields but were frozen in the past stage. We feel that we have a common duty to compensate for what we have lost in the past stage as these agreements, first and foremost, serve the two peoples' interests and are an expression of the bonds of brotherhood and amity that bind them.

Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali added: The bases of cooperation and coordination between the two countries exist, and bilateral agreements regulating them are valid. Why then should we tarry in promoting and implementing them? The two leaderships and fraternal people are eager to achieve further cooperation and coordination, and we are dutybound on all levels to attain these objectives as they sincerely express our peoples' will.

Dr al-Dali said: Following the reinvigoration of these agreements, we will move to a new stage, that of sounding out new vistas for joint cooperation. Within this framework, we are awaiting the visit Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is expected to pay to Aden to sign the agreement on the formation of a joint ministerial committee, under the chairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers, tasked with formulating the necessary framework for the consolidation of bilateral cooperation in all fields. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Dali said: We in the PDRY have been calling and continue to call for Arab summits to be held at their scheduled dates, even if some differences of opinion exist. We adopt such a stand because we believe that Arab summits can eliminate these differences gradually and enhance positive aspects and points of agreement. [passage omitted]

I asked Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali: How do you view the future of unity between the two parts of Yemen, given that some observers say that a long time will be needed in view of the different the political systems in the two parts of Yemen?

Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali said: With respect to the principle and the objective of unity between the two parts of the homeland, it is a firm and constant principle and stems from complete faith in the unity of the Yemeni people in the north and the south. This is a tenet we share with our brothers in the north. [passage omitted] Whether in the southern or northern part of the homeland, we all work to secure strong pillars for the gradual establishment of this unity so that we will be certain it will last. What we have achieved so far augurs well and makes us more confident that we will attain the goal to which we aspire. We are proceeding on a sound path. We are confident that we will ultimately succeed because unity is our most sublime objective.

Qatar

Defense Minister Deplores Mecca Explosions

JN1207161989 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, July 12 (GNA)—Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah al-Thani last night telephoned Saudi Second Deputy Premier, Defence and Aviation Minister and Inspector General Prince Sultan Ibn- 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Shaykh Hamad expressed his resentment over the terrorist crime on the pilgrims to the holy mosque.

The Qatari crown prince also deplored occurrence of the blasts in Mecca affirming that they were contradictory to Islamic principles and teachings and the sanctity of Islamic shrines.

Saudi Arabia

Further Reportage on Explosions in Mecca

AFP Notes Arrests

NC1207163389 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Manama, July 12 (AFP)—Saudi authorities have arrested two people following Monday night's double bomb explosion at the Muslim holy city of Mecca, the Saudi daily ARAB NEWS reported Wednesday.

Other Gulf newspapers, including AL-KHALIJ, published in the United Arab Emirate of Sharjah, cited Saudi security sources as saying several people had been arrested and were currently under interrogation.

"Saudi Arabia will not accuse any party of being behind these attacks before having fully carried out its investigation," an unnamed senior Saudi official told the Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

The newspaper said the two bombs—one placed on a bridge and the other on a wide avenue leading to Mecca's Grand Mosque—exploded as crowds of pilgrims left the mosque following evening prayer.

One person was killed and at least 16 wounded—two of them seriously—by the powerful double blast, according to Saudi authorities.

AL-KHALIJ said the bridge charge was "a powerful home-made time-bomb."

Saudi security forces blocked off all exits from the holy city in western Saudi Arabia immeiately after the attack in an attempt to arrest the perpetrators, the daily said. [passage omitted]

Iraqi President Telephones King

LD1207162489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, received a telephone call from his brother President Saddam Husayn of Iraq in which he declared that the Iraqi Government and people condemn the appalling criminal action to which the most sacred city in the world, Holy Mecca, was exposed to last Monday evening.

His excellency stressed that Iraq fully supports Saudi Arabia against any action to which it might be exposed and which could in any way be aimed at violating its security and stability.

He pointed out that what happened at holy Mecca was not an action directed only against Saudi Arabia, but also against the feelings of all Muslims wherever they might be. He said that this (?criminal) action shows the criminal nature and moral deterioration [of those who committed it].

The Iraqi president announced that Iraq is in complete solidarity with Saudi Arabia in the face of anything that might harm it or harm the august values of Islam.

The custodian of the two holy mosques thanked the Iraqi president for his kind thoughts, and reassured him that the situation is alright and that the convoys of pilgrims are progressing according to plan.

United Arab Emirates

Leader Receives Evren Message on Bulgarian Turks

JN1207200589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a written message from Turkish President Kenan Evren on the issue of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

The message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid was received by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Zayid al-Nuhayyan during a meeting this evening with Turkish Ambassador to the UAE Tugay Ulucevik.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed the results of the efforts now under way to find a solution to this problem entailing an end to the expulsions of Bulgaria's Turkish Muslim minority being carried out by the Bulgarian authorities.

Commentary Says Tehran Involved in Mecca Blasts

JN1207180989 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 12, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad stressed that all evidence indicates Tehran's involvement in the new crime committed in Holy Mecca last Monday.

A daily commentary here today said that this charge was based on tangible realities documented by events of the previous three years and in a series of similar other crimes.

It said that Tehran rulers stood behind this crime by implementation and instigation and thus uncovered to the Islamic world once more their false slogans which they tried to mask by their disavowing of the noble values of Islam.

It pointed out that Iran rulers over the past three years resorted to airing statements enticing subversion of the pilgrimage season.

This instigation for subversion, it said, reached its climax one day before the crime of the two explosions when the Iranian in charge of pilgrimage and endowment Mehdi Imami Hajrani openly called for launching a drive for "the liberation of Mecca and al-Madinah."

Foreign Minister Comments on Views ACC, Iran

NC1207203089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] members hold identical political views regarding the fundamental issues confronting the Arab nation.

In an interview to be published by the Egyptian AL-MUSAWWAR magazine on Friday, 'Aziz points out that this identity in political views is evident in the ACC states' position on the Palestinian issue, threats to Arab national security, and Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

'Aziz asserts that the conclusion of a peace and good-neighborliness treaty between Iraq and Iran could end the current state of no war, no peace between the two countries.

'Aziz warns the states that supply arms to Iran on the pretext they are defensive weapons, saying: Iran would be deluding itself if it believes that by arming itself it could change the balance of military power with Iraq. This balance has been resolved in favor of Iraq for a long time to come.

The Iraqi foreign minister says that the demobilization of 200,000 Iraqi soldiers does not mean a military relaxation but that the Iraqi Armed Forces in their reduced numbers are in a stronger position thatn at the time the cease-fire came into effect. He points out that Iraq will remain fully prepared militarily to repulse any future aggression.

'Aziz accuses the United States of lacking objectivity in its position on Lebanon, saying that the U.S. position is basically to safeguard the continued existence of Israel.

'Aziz points out that Iraq is preparing a new constitution to regulate the new political life in the country in accordance with present and future needs and requirements. He adds: We are now in the stage of study and the discussions and application will follow.

UNIIMOG's Jovic Arrives in Baghdad 13 Jul

JN1307085189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—Yugoslav Major General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] entrusted with the task of supervising the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq arrived in Baghdad this morning from Tehran.

The UNIIMOG commander's 1-week visit to Iraq comes within the framework of his continuing shuttles between Baghdad and Tehran to monitor the situation and action of the international observers.

He was received at the airport by the assistant head of UNIIMOG in Baghdad, the resident UN representative, and a number of officers from the unit for coordination with the observer group.

Assembly Speaker on Political Party Formation

JN1207194789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that the forthcoming phase will witness the emergence of wide prospects for freedom and exercise by the people of the democratic practices that will be enshrined in the new constitution through the utilization of an "open-minded and comprehensive perspective."

In an interview with the Kurdish-language newspaper HAWKARI [as received], Salih added that all doors are opened for the Iraqis to freely form political parties. He went on to say that the only condition for this would be that the founders of these parties must have displayed an honorable patriotic stand in the Arabs' second al-Qadisiyah battle and that they must not espouse a position conflicting with that adopted by the people on the confrontation of the Iranian aggression, as there will be

no freedom to form parties granted to those who betrayed the people under the most difficult circumstances and who collaborated with their enemies.

On the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, the National Assembly speaker affirmed that the first priority topping all priorities in the plans and programs of the Iraqi leadership for this phase and the forthcoming phase is that of developing the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in all spheres and away from traditional methods. He indicated that these steps fall in line with and represent a genuine extension of the principles of the leadership. He added that these steps also emanate from the leadership's eagerness to see the Kurdish people enjoy their entire national, ethnic, and intellectual rights.

INA Reports Cultural Agreement With USSR

JN1207111789 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 12, INA—The Soviet Union will offer 115 scholarships to Iraqi students in various specialisations, in accordance with a new cultural agreement.

Iraq and the Soviet Union are also expected to exchange teachers to teach Arabic and Russian languages in universities of the two countries.

The new cultural cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries in Moscow recently.

A source at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that the agreement is based on an accord signed between the two countries.

According to the new agreement, universities in both countries will maintain close links. The Universities of Baghdad, Mosul and Technology would enhance their ties with the Soviet Fushin Institute, the Kazakhstan Institute in the Soviet Union.

The College of Science of Baghdad University and the Soviet Physics College would cooperate in scientific fields.

Furthermore, Iraq would offer Soviet Students three one-year scholarships to study at Arabic Language Department in the College of Arts, Baghdad University.

The agreement allows for exchange of participants in international seminars, conferences and symposiums held in either country. It also provides for the exchange of publications.

According to the agreement, the Soviet side will offer 10 four-year scholarships for Iraqi students to study in Soviet industrial institutions. This is expected to be applied in the academic year of 1991-1992. Textbooks and teaching aids will be provided by the Soviet institutions for Iraqi secondary schools that teach Russian language.

Each year, 15 top Iraqi students from secondary schools would be sent to the Pushkin Institute in the Soviet Union, the agreement indicated.

Scholarships will be provided by the Soviet side for graduates of the Iraqi Music and Ballet School and the Music Institute.

The agreement also covers cooperation in information and culture fields. The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) and the Soviet news agency (TASS) would increase bilateral cooperation.

In 1990, Iraqis working in cinema industry are expected to take part in the Moscow International Film Festival and the Tashkent International Film Festival.

Iraqi films will be shown in the festivals. Folk troupes will take part in fesitvals and gatherings held in both countries. Iraqi and Soviet writers unions would exchange visits and publications, according to the agreement.

Soviet and Iraqi T.V. and radio stations would further their cooperation links, on basis of the agreement signed between the two sides in June 1969. The two sides would enhance bilateral cooperation in fields of journalism, sports and youth activities.

Foreign Ministry Denies Covert Ties With PLO

TA1207181989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] John Kelly, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, said this evening that the United States has secret reports on clandestine Israeli-PLO contacts. He was speaking at a hearing before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. In reply to a question by committee Chairman Lee Hamilton, Kelly added that he would only be prepared to elaborate on the above before a closed session of the committee.

Our Washington correspondent Nisim Mish'al reports that this information surprised Israel's friends in the committee. They had attacked the administration for the meetings Ambassador Pelletreau held with PLO leaders in Tunis.

Our political correspondent adds that in reaction to John Kelly's testimony, the Foreign Ministry announced this evening that it is responsible for Israel's international contacts. It added that contacts with the PLO have never been, nor ever will be held.

Netanyahu Denies Negotiations

TA1307052289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Qital] Is Israel negotiating with the PLO?

[Netanyahu] No, it is not conducting such negotiations, and I am surprised by such reports; they are baseless.

[Qital] As you know, these are not newspaper reports but a report based on remarks made by John Kelly, a respectable U.S. Administration official, whom you most probably know.

[Netanyahu] Look, I did not read Kelly's exact remarks, but I cannot understand what they were based on. It would be difficult to say that the U.S. State Department knows better than Israel's Foreign Ministry what our foreign policy is. We are not conducting negotiations with the PLO, and we will not do so.

[Qital] Perhaps there are negotiations that are not being conducted via the Foreign Ministry.

[Netanyahu] There could be private activities by individuals, for which we, of course, are not responsible, but it contravenes the government's basic guidelines. Opposition to negotiations with the PLO is the glue that keeps this government together. If it is removed, the continued existence of the government would become unglued.

[Qital] As far as you know, none of the Likud's partners in the government, including the entire spectrum of Labor Party members—there are those who speak in favor of negotiations with the PLO—have conducted negotiations with the PLO either?

[Netanyahu] I cannot tell you what each element is doing. I know that our official foreign policy, the Israeli Government's official policy, is to oppose this and that officially this is definitely being followed—certainly in the Foreign Ministry and, to the best of my knowledge, in the other Ministries as well. There has certainly been no change in our official policy. There are grounds for our opposition to negotiations with the PLO. It was not included in the basic guidelines as an afterthought. It was included because the PLO is still seeking the destruction of the State of Israel by other means. It says as much time and again, daily, in Arabic. I receive the cables daily, and nothing has changed.

Its attitude to terrorism has, of course, not changed either, as PLO spokesman Bassam Abu-Sharif showed by publicly supporting the terrible crime committed in the bus attack, which even the Soviet Union strongly denounced. We have not observed any real change; there might have been a change in rhetorical tactics. I therefore say that this is what unites the government; nothing, of course, has changed here.

[Qital] What about indirect reports from the United States? The U.S. is conducting negotiations with the PLO. You and Minister Arens are against receiving indirect reports on U.S. talks with the PLO, but there are ministers who say that they would not leave the room if such reports were presented.

[Netanyahu] Look, what they are talking about is no secret; you would think there are hidden secrets. We do not need this information as much as the PLO needs legitimization. It wants to be legitimized by Israel in order to be a factor in negotiations, so that it can build a Palestinian state near Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa as the first stage. Without Israeli legitimization it will be very difficult for it to do that, and there is no simpler, more direct legitimization than contacts and negotiations with us. That is why we do not want to get involved in that entire process. But beyond that, we also oppose the U.S. contacts with the PLO because they push peace further away. Negotiations with that body strengthen the terrorist organizations in the field and prevent moderates who would like to join the peace initiative from doing so publicly. Therefore, the United States—in these talks and, I must add, by issuing such hints—is pushing peace further away, not promoting it.

[Qital] On th
line between On the subject of U.S. talks and hints and the fine
egations are ween international policy and politics: U.S. del-
crisis. Are th are visiting Israel during a time of government
re they trying to bridge the rift?

[Netanyahu]
delegation—ahu] I do not know what the approach of this
the final det on—about which we are are still waiting to hear
States will m details—will be. I understand that the United
the political ill most likely want to receive clarifications on
friends, and tical process, something that is done between
difficult to b and we will welcome the delegation. I find it
to intervene to believe that the United States really intends
there is a st vene in Israel's internal affairs. It knows that
dence with n a strong desire here to maintain our indepen-
affairs. It is a ith regard to everything related to our political
that someone it is a fervent desire, and it is difficult to suppose
only achieve eone would try to interfere, because this would
ieve the opposite result.

[Qital] Than
hank you, Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu]
ahu] Thank you.

TA130706028
in Hebrew 13

PLO Confirms Talks

60289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
w 13 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by Sr
by Smadar Peri]

[Text] Yasir '
utive Commi asir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Exec-
U.S. Ambass mmittee who has held several meetings with
framework o bassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau in the
States and the rk of the official dialogue between the United
between the d the PLO, claims that "contacts are being held
Israeli parties the PLO and political circles from the ruling
rties."

In an intervie
magazine pri erview about to be published in a Palestinian
printed in Paris, 'Abd-Rabbuh says:

"The contact
Israeli ruling ntacts between the political circles from the
directly or th ling parties and the PLO leadership are held
these meeting r through a third party. What is being said in
in public dec tings testifies to far greater progress than stated
circles in Isra declarations by the same official political
Israel."

TA130706348
0500 GMT 13

Peres Denies Contacts

3489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
T 13 Jul 89

[Report by Mc
y Moshe Kohen]

[Text] Official
John Kelly, th ficial Jerusalem flatly denies the remarks by
tion to any co y, the U.S. assistant secretary of state. Opposi-
the governmen y contacts with the PLO is the cornerstone of
the capital said ment's basic guidelines, official spokesmen in
said. l said. Israel firmly upholds this principle, they

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said in response: Israel flatly denies the report. There are no Israeli-PLO negotiations, either direct or indirect.

Dani Nave, the foreign minister's adviser, said: There are no negotiations between Israel and the PLO, and there will not be any. Only this week, in its reaction to the bus attack, the PLO again showed that it is a terrorist organization and the main obstacle to peace.

Aside from the denial of Kelly's remarks, deep surprise was also expressed at his remarks. This morning, Jerusalem is awaiting the transcript of his remarks to the congressional committee. An Israeli request for clarifications will later be relayed to the State Department in Washington.

It must nevertheless be recalled that despite the seemingly unified policy of the unity government, there are differences in the tone of its components on the issue of receiving reports on the PLO positions. Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens refuse in principle to hear such reports, while Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin do not, in Rabin's words, leave the room when the U.S. ambassador in Israel reports to them on the U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis.

In the House of Representatives subcommittee in which Kelly answered questions, there was also another remark that caused concern in Jerusalem, especially in view of the Likud-Alignment crisis. This was a statement by Lee Hamilton, the chairman of the subcommittee, who presented what he called an official quote from Peres according to which an official Israel-PLO dialogue is now being crystalized. The vice prime minister's bureau said in response that there is no truth to the claims that Peres said contacts with the PLO were being formed. Minister Peres himself denies the remarks:

[Begin Peres recording] Where did he take that quote from? I never said such a thing, and therefore I am sure he did not quote me. [end recording]

Beilin Confirms Talks

TA1307070489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Dr Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Friedman] Are there or are there not secret contacts between Israelis and the PLO leadership?

[Beilin] For 2 or 2 and ½ months, there have been official, clear-cut negotiations between the Government of Israel under Yitzhaq Shamir and the PLO via the

Americans. Whoever does not admit it and does not recognize it, whoever ignores it, is like a boy who closes his eyes and believes that nobody can see him. My dear friends, this is the reality, despite all the talk about whether there are secret reports or not, whether somebody said something or not. Moreover, the Israeli Government very much wants to hold elections in the territories. It knows that those who will be elected will be PLO people. It prays that they will be PLO people and not members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Abu-Nidal organization or PLO extremists. This is the reality in which we find ourselves in 1989.

[Friedman] When you talk about the indirect dialogue taking place between Israel and the PLO via the U.S. Administration, are you saying, in other words, that Israel is relaying clear and direct messages to the PLO leadership through the Americans?

[Beilin] God forbid. We do not even recognize that there is a body called the PLO. We talk only with the Americans. We tell them what we feel, make proposals, and the Americans go to the PLO and talk to it in Tunis on this or that level. One time it may be Abu-Iyad [Khalaf Salah]; another time it is somebody else. Then they come back to us. If they say we spoke to the PLO we shut the door, but if they say we spoke with Palestinians we open it and hear what they have to say and transfer messages to them.

[Friedman] Is this being done in other ways as well or only through the Americans?

[Beilin] Certainly not. Look, Butrus Ghali was here. What did he do if not deal with these issues? When we visit Europe, what do we deal with? Each element involved in the conflict goes to Tunis and then to Jerusalem and transfers messages. We could say they are not transmitting official messages. Perhaps that is correct, but it is not important; Israel is conducting negotiations with the PLO.

[Friedman] According to a quote in this morning's YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that there are contacts between the PLO and political circles in Israel's ruling parties. He speaks about direct contacts. Do you not know of such things?

[Beilin] Kelly said that he has information that he will report to a closed committee hearing. Let us wait for the meeting and see what he is talking about. In my view, however, the issue of whether such contacts are or are not taking place is a minor one. What is important is that negotiations are being conducted between the Israeli Government and the PLO, and not whether a Knesset member decided to break the law and meet personally with the PLO. That is unimportant. We know that is happening. Such things have been made public; they are not secret.

[Friedman] Nevertheless, the impression gained from your remarks is that you are making them in order to provoke someone.

[Beilin] God forbid, I would like to say I have no interest in getting involved in an attack. I do regret, however, that 2 years ago we did not enter a political arrangement that would have been much better for Israel, but this is the current situation. We are in a new situation, although we can call it whatever we want. We must recognize it and exploit it before it is again too late. Instead of the somewhat moderates in Fatah, we find ourselves facing Abu-Nidals, and that will be the end of it.

[Friedman] Why, in view of your remarks, did Shim'on Peres deny that he said that an official dialogue is being formed between Israel and the PLO?

[Beilin] First, he may have denied it because he did not say it. Second, I believe that a dialogue is not being formed; it already exists.

[Friedman] Dr Beilin, thank you.

[Beilin] Thank you.

Beilin Remarks Denied

TA1307082289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry deny there are any negotiations with the PLO. The Prime Minister's Office said that contrary to press reports, the assistant U.S. secretary of state did not say that Israel is negotiating with the PLO. Our correspondent Moshe Sne has the details:

From the official transcript of John Kelly's remarks, which has reached Jerusalem, it appears that Kelly said in fact that there are no official contacts between Israel and the PLO. He added that there are unofficial Israelis who are trying to form contacts with the PLO. In view of this, Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, told us: The whole issue is a tempest in a teapot. Avi Pazner said he does not know the identity of the unofficial Israelis to whom Kelly referred, but if their identity is made known, they should be brought to trial because they have broken the law.

The Prime Minister's Office also sharply denies remarks by Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin that there have been official contacts over the past 2 and ½ months between Israel and the PLO via the United States. Pazner stressed that there is a clear directive from the prime minister and foreign minister to all the country's official representatives not to even listen to reports by third parties on the PLO's positions in order not to create the impression that there are negotiations with the organization.

Dani Nave, the foreign minister's media adviser, also denied Beilin's remarks. He said there have not been official contacts between Israel and the PLO, and there will not be any in the future. He said it is possible that the Deputy Minister Beilin was referring to contacts in which he personally has been involved and which the Foreign Ministry knows nothing about.

'Blackout' on 'Secret' Talks

TA1307072989 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a secret meeting with a group of Palestinian figures a few days ago. Shamir discussed the chances of promoting the government peace initiative with them. The Prime Minister's Office imposed a total blackout on the meeting, its contents, and the identity of the Palestinian figures who took part in it.

The meeting was held in the framework of Shamir's efforts to find supporters for his political plan among the Palestinians. The prime minister presented the guidelines of the plan to the notables with whom he met and stressed that his initiative as approved by the cabinet still exists.

Shamir intends to hold additional meetings with Palestinians in the near future. [passage omitted]

Sharon Drops Call To Append 'Braces'

TA1207184589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] The Alignment ministers are contemplating demanding that the cabinet hold another vote on the peace initiative in its upcoming session. This, in view of the fact that Minister Ari'el Sharon today struck off the cabinet's agenda the proposal that his four principles be appended to the cabinet resolution.

Senior Alignment figures repeated today that if the cabinet adopts a clear-cut resolution confirming that no change or addenda have been introduced to the peace initiative, a government crisis may be averted. The above was reported by our political correspondent Yig'al Goren.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said this evening that only a retraction of the four principles presented at the Likud Central Committee session will end the crisis.

Minister Ari'el Sharon has rescinded his proposal that the cabinet discuss the braces to be affixed on the peace initiative. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that Minister Sharon appealed to the prime minister with a request that his proposal not be brought up for discussion. Consequently, there are currently no formal grounds for a reaffirmation of the peace initiative in the cabinet.

The prime minister will pursue his efforts to persuade the Labor Party not to secede from the cabinet. The above stems from the Likud ministers' decision of this evening. Our correspondent adds that the prime minister may raise this issue in meetings with Ministers Rabin and Peres. The Likud ministers decided this evening that if the Labor Party Central Committee moves to quit the government, the Likud will call early elections. Minister David Levi emphasized that the Likud would not be prepared to make any gestures to the Labor Party.

Labor Defers Withdrawal

TA1207201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] The Labor Party ministers have decided to suspend for the moment any decision to dissolve the cabinet. That proposal will be raised before the party's central committee, which will convene in August. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that until then, the Labor Party will demand that the political status quo ante be restored, namely that the Likud Central Committee resolution be revoked.

Labor Lists Steps

TA1307050089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Labor Party leaders have agreed not to take any steps to break up the national unity government until the central committee meets next month. The ministers reached agreement on this last night, giving Prime Minister Shamir time to prove that the four conditions, approved by the Likud to the peace initiative, are null and void.

Among the steps requested by the Labor Party ministers are: Contacts with prominent Palestinians in the territories; a meeting between Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin and Vice Premier Shim'on Peres; and a statement on the peace process by Shamir.

The Labor ministers said the supreme interest of the country is the continuation of the peace initiative and rejected what they termed attempts by the Likud to blame it for the failure of the development towns. The Labor ministers said the budget given to Jewish settlements in the territories during the last 12 years is the main reason for the economic woes plaguing the development towns.

Alignment Remarks 'Restrained'

TA1307075989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Report by Yaron Deqel]

[Text] Remarks by speakers at last night's Alignment ministers meeting were more restrained than those made only 2 days earlier at the Labor Party Bureau meeting.

Although ministers who support quitting the government still remain firm in their positions, remarks made at the meeting left an opening for negotiations with the Likud. One thing is clear: Alignment ministers will not, for their part, initiate solutions to the crisis. They are waiting for the prime minister's moves. At the end of the meeting, one of the Alignment ministers described it thus: The name of the game is waiting for Shamir.

In the meeting, Shim'on Peres blamed Yitzhaq Shamir for the crisis. Shamir himself had said how dangerous the four Likud conditions were, but then adopted them. What does he expect us to do, Peres asked. Coming out of the meeting, Peres said:

[Begin Peres recording] The Labor Party does not aspire to disband the government. The Labor Party is fighting for the continued existence of the peace initiative. It is not a dispute between parties, but over future directions. On the eve of the Likud Central Committee meeting, many of the Likud leaders explained very well what the dangers are if the Likud Central Committee adopts such resolutions. The battle now is over the continued existence of the peace initiative. That is the main issue; all the other intentions, the talk about feelers, are baseless. [end recording]

In the meeting, Peres expressed anger over reports that his true aim in the crisis is to rotate the role of prime minister. That is a lie, the finance minister said.

Defense Minister Rabin reiterated that he views the Likud decisions with gravity, but, in his words, several weeks must be allowed to ascertain whether the initiative has been stopped. Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur's remarks show that he is not keen to disband the government:

[Begin Tzur recording] The Alignment is studying the possibility of restoring the peace initiative to the situation existing before the Likud gathering. This is the main aim, and Alignment ministers are fully united on this. The aim is not to disband the government, but to continue the peace plan, while the disbandment of the government is certainly a possibility if the Likud does not rescind the central committee's decisions. [end recording]

The bottom line is: The Alignment is trying to avoid worsening the crisis, but it also decided not to take any action that might solve it. It is, in fact, waiting to see if Yitzhaq Shamir wishes to get them off the high horse of quitting the government.

In the meantime, the Likud is conducting negotiations with Agudat Yisra'el. Agudat Yisra'el Deputy Minister Feldman met yesterday with Minister Ehud Olmert. Today, Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members are expected to meet with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. The Likud is trying to meet Agudat Yisra'el's various demands in order to be prepared for the day the Alignment might leave the government.

Statistics Bureau Releases Population Figures

TA1307103389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The population of Israel was 4,476,800 at the end of last year, according to figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics. In 1988, for the first time since the establishment of the state, there were over 100,000 births. Nevertheless, there was a negative population balance, with 600 more people leaving the country than immigrating here. The population increased last year by 1.6 percent compared with the previous year. The Jewish population grew by 1.3 percent, while the Muslim population increased by 3.7 percent. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein points out that 82 percent of the residents are Jewish, while 14 percent are Muslim.

Increase in New Immigrants

TA1207093289 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jul 89 p 6

[Report by Yosef Galili]

[Excerpt] A summary of immigration statistics for the first half of 1989 shows a 39 percent increase in those arriving to Israel compared to the same period last year.

The total number of new immigrants arriving here in the first 6 months of the year reached 8,275, said Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department.

Gordon pointed out that most of the increase came from a 177 percent increase in immigration from the USSR, totaling 2,812 people.

The number of new immigrants who drop out on their way here is still some 90 percent.

The number of new immigrants from the USSR is expected to double by the end of the year. There was also an 18 percent increase in immigrants from Argentina with the arrival of 1,010 people from that country. [passage omitted]

Bank of Israel Reports Foreign Debt Increase

TA1307113589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 89 p 8

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpts] Israel's foreign debt at the end of March totalled $24.9 billion, up $455 million from its level at the end of 1988, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.

The debt was up $100 million from the total at the end of September 1988, the central bank said.

With the country's foreign assets subtracted, net liabilities totalled $17.2b. [billion], the lowest figure in five years. [passage omitted]

Israel's foreign currency assets rose to $7.7b. from $7.3b. in September 1988. The assets included $5.9b. worth of government foreign currency reserves, $630m. [million] in government holdings of foreign bonds and $1.2b. in private sector assets.

Government Registers Domestic Deficit in June

TA0307120589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Jul 89 p B2

[Report by Yosi Groenstein]

[Text] The Israeli Government absorbed 592 million shekels in June. The domestic deficit amounted to 492 million shekels and domestic funding was 1,084 million shekels.

The government reported that the June deficit results from a seasonal rise in government expenditures and low revenues from taxes.

The domestic deficit since the beginning of the fiscal year amounts to 755 million shekels. Capital recruitment amounted to 1,608 million shekels, while the total amount of money absorbed came to 853 million shekels.

Rabin Anticipates Reopening W. Bank Schools

TA1207141489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has issued instructions in anticipation of reopening the schools in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that according to the instructions, the reopening will be carried out gradually in the near future. Prior to that, information campaigns will be conducted among the heads of the educational system, teachers, and the students' parents.

The latest leaflets issued by the intifadah [uprising] leaders refused to admit that there was any link between the reopening of the schools, and a commitment to leave the schools out of the struggle.

Palestinian on Reopening

TA1307054189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Palestinian education officials in Judaea and Samaria say they cannot guarantee that student unrest would stop when schools are reopened. Yesterday Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ordered preparations for the gradual reopening of the schools in the near future. Shlomo Berger report:

[Begin recording] [Berger] Defense Minister Rabin's decision follows meetings in recent days between Civil Administration leaders and heads of the Palestinian education system. The government asked the Palestinians to maintain order as a condition to reopening the schools. Reverend 'Awda Rantisi, who is involved with the Evangelical School in Ramallah, said such a condition cannot be met.

[Rantisi] Well, we cannot guarantee any calm because the disturbance that is taking place is from the army. It really depends on the occupying forces and authorities to keep, as it were, away and let people live their own lives.

[Berger] The latest uprising leaflets have also rejected any attempt to separate the schools from the intifadah [uprising]. Rabin's decision will eventually enable some 320,000 pupils in Judaea and Samaria to return to class. [passage omitted] [end recording]

43 Jews Detained for Assaulting Arabs

TA1207194289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev has said that the police will take immediate and firm action against anyone who breaks the law. Responding to motions on the Knesset agenda regarding Jewish attacks on Arabs and public figures, the police affairs minister disclosed that to date 43 Jewish suspects have been detained. Files will be submitted against all of them, and they will be tried.

Minister Bar-Lev called on all the factions in the Knesset to unite and strongly condemn any act that smacks of violation of law and order.

Last night, around midnight, a Border Police patrol in Jerusalem captured three Israeli youths, aged approximately 18, from the Ramot neighborhood. They are suspected of beating and injuring an octogenarian Arab. The man is employed as a guard in a building site in their neighborhood. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that in their questioning, the three confessed to having beaten the Arab simply for being Arab. Two of them are minors. They were detained for 10 days. The police will request a remand in custody of the elder of the group by another 15 days.

2 Masked Youths Killed by IDF in Territories

TA1307090289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] A masked youth was killed last night in Hebron by army gunfire. The incident occurred in the late evening. An Israeli bus traveling in Hebron was stoned by masked men. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit called on one of them to halt, and when he refused to heed the order they opened fire, killing Muhammad Majid Abu-Hamdiyya. Another masked youth was detained.

A firebomb was hurled last night at a bus traveling from Ma'ale Efrayim to Ari'el. The firebomb missed its target; there were neither casualties nor damage. The IDF is searching for the perpetrators.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 13 July adds that "an 18-year-old Khan Yunus resident was seriously wounded last night by shots fired by an IDF patrol after it was attacked by a group of masked youths carrying knives and axes." The youth was taken to Beersheba hospital, where he later died of his wounds. A second youth was captured and detained for questioning.]

Aside from these incidents, there was relative quiet in Judaea and Samaria yesterday. Shops were open until the evening hours to enable the residents to stock up for the 4-day 'Id al-Adha holiday, which begins today. The soldiers were briefed on the significance of the holiday in order to avoid unnecessary incidents. Deterrent measures will be taken in locations about which the security forces have information on plans to cause unrest, the IDF spokesman said.

Curfews were, in fact, imposed this morning on Nabulus, Janin, their neighboring refugee camps, the Tulkarm refugee camp, and the township of Dhannabah. The curfews were imposed following reports on residents' plans to cause unrest.

The security forces have decided to reopen schools in Judaea and Samaria. The schools in that region, unlike the Gaza Strip, have been closed almost since the start of the intifadah [uprising] because they were centers of unrest. Initially, studies will begin for 12th graders, so that they can complete their matriculation exams, and in elementary schools. High school classes will be reopened at a later stage.

The Unified National Command of the Uprising is divided over the move, and leaflets were disseminated recently opposing the move. Nevertheless, the majority of the population supports the reopening of the schools.

Further Reportage on Violence, Injuries 12 Jul

1 Injured in 'Afula

TA1207163689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] A serious brawl erupted between Jews and Arabs this evening in the 'Afula vegetable market. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a Jewish vendor was hurt when two Arabs beat him. Other vendors later tried to attack Arabs who arrived there. A large police force arrived on the scene to separate the battling parties, and has remained on the scene to preserve order. Tempers are still heated.

2 Injured in Gaza

TA1207174189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Two Gaza residents were injured by soldiers' gunfire during riot dispersals today. Our correspondent also notes though, that relative quiet prevailed today in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Shops were open late in accordance with an instruction issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, to allow the locals to purchase food for 'Id al-Adha, which begins tomorrow.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has instructed soldiers serving in the Gaza Strip to minimize contact and friction with the faithful coming to pray in the mosques. The soldiers were also ordered to behave especially well and to show respect toward clergymen. These instructions were included in a flyer issued by the Civil Administration today, in anticipation of 'Id al-Adha, which was handed out to the soldiers. Our correspondent adds that the soldiers were also told to permit visits to cemeteries during the 1st day of the holiday, and not to allow themselves to be goaded by the provocations of inciters should they attempt to violate public order during these visits.

Gaza 'Mob' Dispersed

TA1207193889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpt] A bus transporting soldiers and traveling through the center of Gaza was attacked by a mob of rioters who pelted it with rocks. The soldiers were forced to disperse their assailants. Six people were slightly injured. [passage omitted]

King Telephones Fahd, Condemns Mecca Bombings

JN1207173689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone call with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, from his London residence this afternoon. His Majesty expressed his congratulations and best wishes to his brother the Saudi monarch and the fraternal Saudi people on the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

His Majesty also expressed his condemnation and denunciation of the criminal act that took place in Holy Mecca—an act designed to terrify the pilgrims and threaten the holy places.

Regent Telephones Fahd

JN1207193189 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today phoned the Saudi monarch to express Jordan's condemnation of bombings in Mecca on Monday night. The crown prince said this criminal act violates Islamic values, hurts Muslims, and harms their holy shrines.

The Saudi monarch, King Fahd, emphasized that his government is capable of providing the maximum level of convenience and security to Muslim pilgrims.

Results of King's Medical Checkup 'Reassuring'

JN1207174289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's special doctor has stated that his majesty left the hospital in London this morning after undergoing a general medical checkup. His majesty's special doctor announced that the results of all the tests, which mainly centered on the heart and digestive system, were good and reassuring.

We ask God to safeguard his majesty and grant him good health.

Security Organs Continue Seizure of Staples

JN1207120989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—In accordance with the general military governor's order and in coordination with the Ministry of Supply, the Public Security organs have launched a search campaign aimed at arresting violators of the rules governing supplies and putting an end to trading in the citizens' food.

So far, many warehouses and stores have been seized in various parts of the Kingdom because their owners had hidden some foodstuffs or violated the prices set by the Ministry of Supply.

The competent authorities have gathered scores of tonnes of seized staples. They have placed them on the market through traders, making them available to the citizens at prices fixed by the Ministry of Supply.

So far, 110 people from all governorates of the Kingdom have been arrested for hiding staples and tampering with prices.

Since this morning, and following the measures carried out by the competent authorities, citizens have noticed a return to the market and street shops of many goods and products that had recently been missing.

It has also been noticed that the wave of buying and hoarding by citizens has decreased greatly following the availability of products and staples, either from stocks that had been seized and made available on the market or that were available in the Ministry of Supply's warehouses and stores.

The competent authorities last night seized scores of tonnes of staples in a three-story building in the capital's governorate belonging to a storehouse named by its owner al-Istiqamah [integrity] Supermarket.

Clergy Condemn Mecca Blasts; Blame U.S.

LD1107174889 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 11, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese 'ulema and political figures today blamed the U.S. and the Al-Sa'ud dynasty for Monday night's bomb explosions in the holy city of Mecca which killed two and wounded scores of others.

Shaykh Mahir Hammud, a Sunni alim [theological scholar] held the agents of the Riyadh regime and American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) responsible for the blasts. He said the aim of such crimes was to sow discord among Muslims.

Dr. 'Ali 'Ammar, political official in charge of the Islamic Society of Lebanon, too, blamed the explosions on American agents and other enemies of Islam.

'Ammar was talking to IRNA before his departure for Tehran at the head of a delegation to participate in a ceremony marking the 40th day of the passing away of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

No doubt, he said, imperialist intelligence networks and the mercenaries who have sold out their souls to Satan were behind the Mecca blasts.

Shaykh Ghazi (?Hanifah), another Sunni alim condemned the incident and described those responsible as "enemies of Muslims' sanctities."

Nabih Birri Requests Syrian FROG Missiles

JN0707130589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1212 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri has held a news conference after a meeting with Minister Walid Junblatt. Birri said that General 'Awn had managed to foil the [Lebanese] National Front's initiative last Tuesday by rejecting the opening of Beirut Airport. This has made the initiative lose great momentum. He added that 'Awn's objective behind this is to force the National Front to reclose the land crossings. However, Birri said, we still insist on our initiative. He said that arms deliveries to East Beirut are continuing. He said that yesterday, there was a ship unloading T-54 and T-55 tanks in East Beirut, in addition to surface-to-surface FROG missiles.

Birri wondered: Against whom are these weapons, are they against Syria? I say no. They are not aimed against Syria or any other country, but against the Lebanese people and the National Front parties. Birri added: We, from Syria and from Damascus in particular, announce that we, as the National Front and as the Amal Movement in particular, ask the Syrians to supply us with FROG-type weapons to achieve parity between us and East Beirut. Without using threatening language or warnings with our allies, we say that if the brothers in Syria do not want or cannot supply these, then we will be compelled to search for other sources to import this type of weapon. Our objective is to defend ourselves.

Birri pointed out that the aim of his news conference is particularly to request sophisticated weapons from Syria to confront Gen 'Awn's weapons. He added that he has made this decision following a meeting with Walid Junblatt.

Further on Birri Request

NC0707132489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri holds Michel 'Awn responsible for foiling the [Lebanese] National Front's initiative to reopen the Beirut International Airport.

Speaking at a news conference he held in Damascus today after meeting with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, Birri said: 'Awn attempted to foil the National Front's initiative last Tuesday to reopen the Beirut International Airport, thus making the initiative lose much of its impetus. He added: 'Awn's aim was to have the National Front retaliate by closing the land crossing points but we insist on continuing our initiative.

Birri said: Weapons are still arriving in the eastern areas. A ship unloaded yesterday T-54 and T-55 tanks and surface-to-surface FROG missiles in the eastern areas. He stressed that this weapon is not targeted against Syria or any other country but against the Lebanese people and the National Front parties.

Birri went on to say: From Syria, and specifically from Damascus, we declare that as a National Front and as the Amal Movement in particular, we call on the Syrians to provide us with FROG missiles so to have a balance between us and the eastern areas. He added: If the brothers in Syria will not or cannot do this, then we will be compelled to search for other sources to import this type of weapon. Our aim is the right to self-defense. He added that the aim of this news conference was to ask for advanced weapons from Syria in order to confront the weapons that 'Awn has. He noted that he took this decision following his meeting with Walid Junblatt.

Iran Reportedly Refuses Arms

NC1207144389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] A senior Hizballah official has told BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY that Iran refused to supply Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri with arms and ammunition. Iranian officials pointed out to Birri that the arms which he was asking for, including medium-range surface-to-surface missiles, may eventually be used against Hizballah.

According to the same Hizballah official, Shaykh [Muhammad Husayn] Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution in Lebanon, briefed Iranian officials on the clashes between Amal and Hizballah and asked them to refrain from giving money or arms to Birri.

The same Hizballah official said that the Iranians explained to Birri why they cannot supply him with weapons. They offered instead to supply him with oil for the al-Zahrani refinery in return for stopping all clashes with Hizballah.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Resume 13 Jul

NC1307053989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed at 0100 today in the areas of al-Ghubayrah, Hayy Farhat, and the airport bridge. The clashes continued to rage violently until 0500. The two parties used rockets and automatic weapons in the fighting.

'Awn Reportedly Says No Escalation With Syria

NC1207164589 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 12 (AFP)—General Michel 'Awn dismissed Wednesday fears of a new outbreak of fighting with Syrian troops, saying he had complete confidence in the Arab League commission seeking a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

"As long as the work of the Arab commission continues, there's no other alternative to envision," Gen. 'Awn said in an interview with AFP.

"I have submitted a case before a tribunal and it's not in my interest to disturb it by provoking an explosion."

Six of Gen. 'Awn's soldiers were wounded Wednesday during intense clashes with Syrian troops and their allies at Suq al-Gharb, in southeast Beirut, a military official said.

Two civilians were also hurt when the artillery battles spilled over into Christian suburbs, particularly B'abda, seat of Gen. 'Awn's military government, and al-Yarzah, where the Defense Ministry is located, police said.

The flight of two of Gen. 'Awn's warplanes over the capital Monday raised fears of an escalation of the 4-month-old confrontation between the general's mainly Christian troops and the 35,000 Syrian troops that back the rival, mainly Muslim administration of Premier Salim al-Huss.

It was the first such flight since Gen 'Awn declared March 14 a "war of liberation" against Syrian troops, and it came shortly after Syria began sending Navy boats to reinforce its blockade of Christian ports.

Earlier this month Gen. 'Awn said he expected little from the Arab League commission—composed of the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco and charged by the Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in May with finding a solution to the crisis in 6 months.

"I haven't changed my opinion, and I never lost confidence in the Arab commission," he said Wednesday. "I only expressed reservations about the slowness of its work. But time is apparently necessary for it to get by obstacles created by Syria."

The foreign ministers of the commission—accompanied by its special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi—arrived Wednesday in Damascus from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Gen. 'Awn said the commission's constant movement between Arab cities is evidence of its determination to solve the crisis.

"They have obtained widespread international support and are the representatives of three great Arab countries," he said.

Gen. 'Awn repeated his stand that the Syrian blockade must be lifted before any other question can be approached.

Asked about the risk of a confrontation between his Air Force and the Syrian Navy, Gen. 'Awn said, "Tension increases with time and the maritime blockade becomes tighter. But we haven't yet reached the threshold which would force me to decide on military action to break it."

He then characterized the flight of his two planes over Beirut Monday as a "simple training exercise."

Meanwhile in Tehran, Iranian Parliamentary Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani met sparately Wednesday with the leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite Amal Movement and another Lebanese leader close to the rival Shi'ite Hizballah movement, Iran's IRNA news agency reported.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Amal chief Nabih Birri discussed the situation in Lebanon and the "struggle against the Zionist regime," IRNA said.

The speaker also met Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, leader of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalists in Lebanon, and pledged Iran's "full support for the struggle of Lebanese Islamic groups against Israel and its mercenaries."

Militiamen from Mr. Birri's pro-Syrian Amal Movement clashed last week with fighters from the pro-Iranian Hizballah, amidst a long- running feud for leadership of Lebanon's Shi'ite community.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the necessity of re-establishing "unity among Muslims" and of modifying the religious-based political system in Lebanon, the radio reported.

Information Minister Condemns Mecca Explosions

JN1307080889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0702 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jul (WAKH)—Syria has condemned the criminal acts in Holy Mecca last Monday evening.

In a statement broadcast by Damascus radio last night, Syrian Minister of Information Muhammad Salman described this incident as criminal and serving the interests of the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

The Syrian minister expressed his country's satisfaction over the measures taken by the Saudi authorities to guarantee the safety and security of the pilgrims.

Denounces Mecca 'Crime'

JN1307120189 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1110 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jul (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman, on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, has denounced the sinful crime committed in Holy Mecca, which targeted the lives and security of pilgrims last Monday [10 July].

The minister said that this criminal act only serves the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

The information minister stressed Syria's satisfaction with the measures adopted by the Saudi authorities to guarantee the safety, comfort, and safety of pilgrims.

Arab Foreign Ministers Arrive for Talks 12 Jul

JN1207134189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Abdellatif Filali, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, members of the three-member Arab committee on Lebanon; and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The guests were welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the directors of the Foreign Ministry Departments of the Arab Homeland and Protocol; the Saudi ambassador in Damascus; and the Algerian and Moroccan charges d'affaires in Damascus.

In a statement to reporters, Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Filali said: Our visit today falls within the framework of the work of the three-member committee, the consultations, and the exchange of opinions with Syrian officials on the development of the situation in the Lebanese arena.

Filali added: Since the materialization of the visit made by the committee's envoy to Beirut, contacts have been maintained with all Lebanese parties. We believe that there is optimism regarding an initiation of the dialogue among the Lebanese brothers. He indicated that no difficulties are obstructing the work of the committee. However, he said that the Lebanese crisis is protracted and added that the committee's work seeks to pave the way for the creation of a new trust among the Lebanese brothers.

Concluding his statement, Filali said: We wish to reach a final solution for Lebanon before the deadline set for the committee.

Received by Al-Asad

JN1207162889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1700 this afternoon the foreign ministers of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Kingdom of Morocco—Mr Boualem Bessaieh, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Mr Abdellatif Filali—the envoys of the higher Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Convey Message to Al-Asad

JN1207193989 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1700 today received the foreign ministers of Algeria, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, and the Moroccan Kingdom—Boualem Bessaieh, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Abdellatif Filali—envoys of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon. Present at the meeting were Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The three ministers conveyed to the president a message from members of the Arab tripartite committee: Algerian President Chadli Benjedid; King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Arabian monarch; and the Moroccan monarch His Majesty King Hassan II. The talks centered on the situation in the Lebanese arena and the stage the Arab tripartite committee's efforts have reached.

Meet al-Shar'; Depart 12 Jul

JN1307070889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] A meeting attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and representatives of the Arab committee on Lebanon—Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali,

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh—was held at the Foreign Ministry this evening.

The meeting dealt with the Arab tripartite committee's efforts to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon. The meeting also dealt with all aspects of the situation in the Lebanese arena.

Abdellatif Filali, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Boualem Bessaieh, and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, left Damascus at 2230 today.

They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; chiefs of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol and Arab Homeland Desk; the Saudi ambassador in Damascus; and the Algerian and Moroccan charges d'affairs in Damascus.

Cabinet Views Cooperation With Tunisia, Jordan
JN1107134189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—The cabinet met at 1000 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Al-Zu'bi explained the results of the Syrian-Tunisian talks which he held with his accompanying delegation during his visit to Tunisia and their effect on opening new horizons for cooperation through the agreements that have been concluded and that could lead to developing cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Zu'bi also clarified the steps concluded during the visit to Damascus by the Jordanian prime minister and his accompanying delegation within the framework of the joint higher committee's meetings which would promote the march of cooperation and integration between the two fraternal countries.

At this meeting, the cabinet discussed a number of topics on the agenda and made a number of decisions and measures concerning these topics.

Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for Tehran 12 Jul
JN1207121189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, left Damascus for Tehran today at head of an official delegation including Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs, to attend the 40th day memorial ceremony for Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Vice President Khaddam Views Egypt, Arab Issues
JN0107195789 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 30 Jun 89 pp 22-23

["Details" of meeting on 21 June of Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam with Egyptian journalists accompanying Egyptian lawyers' delegation to the Congress of the Arab Lawyers Union in Damascus]

[Excerpts] [Question] Since the signing of the Camp David accords, no changes have taken place in either the Syrian or Egyptian positions. Why then this rapprochement between these two countries right now? And who returned to whom?

[Khaddam] The question of who returned to whom, of whether Egypt returned to the Arabs or the Arabs returned to Egypt, is not important. What is important is the significance of this decision.

Ties with Egypt were severed because of the Camp David accords signed by Al-Sadat. When President Mubarak assumed power in Egypt, new objective realities emerged. One of these realities is the Egyptian people's determination to boycott Israel; this is no secret and nobody can deny it.

The Egyptian people have abrogated the treaty and rendered it ineffective. Besides, Mubarak is different from Al-Sadat. We know well in Syria the difference between the two men. They are different from each other and each of them has his own particular method. Mubarak has a pan-Arab thinking and broader Arab perspective; our confidence in him is great.

We would like to say to the one who says that Mubarak was Al-Sadat's vice president that Al-Sadat himself was 'Abd-al-Nasir's vice president.

On numerous occasions, President Mubarak affirmed the pan-Arab dimension in Egypt's policy; this is also something that cannot be overlooked.

Objective developments, as well as the economic suffering in Egypt, makes it natural that the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab League and restoring Arab ties with that country be objectively discussed.

We are confident that Egypt was and will remain an important factor in the Arab situation. No farsighted individual can brush aside these developments.

We expect Egypt to continue to play its pan-Arab role. This position was expressed by Mubarak; thus Mubarak voiced the real sentiments of his person as well as those of the Egyptian people. We believe that any positive step will be followed by other positive steps. This is our responsibility, which we will shoulder to guarantee "the future of all of us." [sentence as published]

[Question] What is Syria's opinion of the three Arab groupings? And how true are the published reports that Syria asked to join the Maghreb market? [as published]

[Khaddam] We in Syria believe that any step on the road to unity is positive and good. However, these steps must go further than the existing ties and agreements concluded among the Arabs. We have the Arab League Charter, the economic unity agreements, and the Joint Defense Pact. Any step taken between two or more states will be a form of togetherness and not unity. We believe that the developments pertaining to the creation of these three Arab groupings are very much lower than the objectives envisaged in the aforementioned agreements. For example, the agreements on the establishment of the three Arab blocs do not contain any clear indication that the creation of these blocs is a step on the road of attaining comprehensive unity. Besides, these agreements do not contain any reference to the Joint Defense Pact.

Therefore, our measuring rod is the existing Arab agreements and any further Arab steps taken to transcend these agreements and add to them. We support any Arab steps that go further than these agreements. We hope that further steps transcending and going beyond what is contained in the reports published about these groupings will materialize.

As for a Syrian request to join the Arab Maghreb Union, we have not submitted any request to join any of the existing Arab groupings, be they Maghreb or Arab East groupings. We believe that these groupings have many positive aspects. However, they are very much below real unity. This is the only thing that we have against these groupings, and we hope that there will be no room for voicing this criticism in the future.

These groupings have proved that it is possible to coexist within one Arab house despite the existing differences.

The unity that we aspire to achieve goes beyond the the realm of Syrian interests in the direction of realizing a comprehensive merger. The confederation of Arab Republics "comprising Egypt, Syria, and Libya" went further than these modalities. There was one constitution and one central government. However, some people displayed no adherence to the constitution, thus bringing about the demise and downfall of the confederation. Had there been an earnest faith in unity, the picture would have been different.

Despite all this, we waged the October war under the umbrella of the confederation, and this confederation was the most important factor in our victory in this war.

[Question] Syria has approved the convening of an international peace conference. Does this mean that it has disregarded the military option?

[Khaddam] The Arab-Israeli conflict is not one with a single dimension. It is a multifaceted conflict in which things should not be viewed only in terms of black and white. The military option is supported by diplomacy and the diplomatic action is supported by military strength.

The important thing is to look for the solution that is most beneficial to us and that also brings the least harm. Our conflict with Israel is a protracted one involving generations.

We in Syria believe that we contribute to resolving the conflict when we build a school, as this will bolster our ability to manage the conflict and bear its effects.

[Question] Syria has announced that strategic parity with Israel is its objective. Can you tell us how far along Syria is on this road?

[Khaddam] When Al-Sadat made his decision to cease fire, we felt that at a certain stage, we would be left alone in the future. Since then, we have been trying to achieve strategic parity with Israel. We have been exposed to immense pressures. We would not have been able to stand fast without what we have built. We have reached the point at which Israel will realize that it cannot carry out an adventure without taking Syria's defense capabilities into consideration.

Another factor, which is very important—and we have discovered it in Lebanon—is the human factor. There were dozens of Syrian youths who escaped from their schools, and their fathers did not know anything about them until they learned from television and radio brodcasts that they had gone to Lebanon to seek martyrdom. There were also Egyptians who took part in fedayeen operations against Israel. We now have a record that includes thousands of names of those seeking martyrdom. This spirit did not exist during or before the October war. It appeared and grew up in Lebanon. Another factor is to be added to this—namely, the popular resistance in southern Lebanon. Moreover, the intifadah [uprising] has added new dimensions to our strategic capabilities. Had this intifadah existed during the October war, the situation would have been completely different. It is a true popular war that has encouraged us to stand fast and to strengthen our capabilities. We are no longer warried about confronting Israel. Next time, if the Israelis think of confronting us, they will find the situation different. When we reach the stage of strategic parity Israel will be forced to search for a peace formula. However, let me tell you that in light of the growing of the spirit of hostility in Israel and the success of the Israeli right wing, it will be difficult to convene the international conference. [passage omitted]

[Question] There were new developments in relations between Syria and the PLO following the Casablanca summit. What is Syria's current stand toward the PLO, and when will the expected meeting between 'Arafat and Al-Asad be held?

[Khaddam] To understand our position toward the PLO, you should be aware of the background of this position. We in Syria do not view the Palestine question as an issue of support but rather simultaneously as a national and pan-Arab cause. Palestine, like Syria, is part of Bilad al-Sham [Greater Syria]. We support independent Palestinian decisionmaking if it concerns the Palestinians. However, Palestinian decisions that will affect our situation in Syria or Lebanon, or maybe Egypt, will not be the right of the Palestinians alone. [passage omitted]

[Question] What are the practical steps that Egypt and Syria will take in their relations following the Casablanca summit?

[Khaddam] Two meetings were held between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad during the Casablanca summit. In Syria, we will continue the steps of reconciliation and rapprochement with the Egyptian Government until we reach a point that will satisfy every Arab citizen in both countries and in the other Arab countries. We will use all out power to liquidate the situation that used to exist between the two governments, and I do not say between the two peoples, as a result of Camp David. The coming days will witness important and positive developments. We expect Egypt and Syria to resume shouldering their pan-Arab responsibilities toward the central Arab issues, particularly the Palestine question.

[Question] What practical measures have been taken or will be taken to patch up relations between Syria and Iraq, and why is this not being achieved with the same speed as the reconciliation between Egypt and Syria and Egypt and Libya?

[Khaddam] The disagreement between Syria and Iraq is not the only example of inter-Arab differences. There are numerous such instances. Differences between Syria and Iraq, however, have a special nature. Our differences are not economic or over borders; it is an interparty disagreement that has adversely affected relations between our two countries.

The thing is that there is no Arab mechanism to contain inter-Arab disagreements. There does exist a mechanism for cooperation, but there is none for sorting out differences. We would like an Arab meeting to consolidate a mechanism for containing and clearing up inter-Arab disagreements, not only the one between Syria and Iraq. It is natural that there should be differences between countries with common borders. Such disagreements, however, should not be allowed to overshadow contradictions with foreign powers. In other words, they should not be allowed to take precedence over common foreign threats.

Our policies in Syria revolve around concentrating Arab effort mainly on the Palestinian question and the struggle against Israel. Our efforts are principally directed toward that end. Whatever other differences there may be, and especially those with other Arab states, are marginal. We expect the rest of the Arab countries, or some of them at any rate, to follow our lead in this respect.

We have a major battle with Israel, and everything else must be marginalized and is to be avoided unless we are driven into it. We have a panoramic view of the dangers and the settlement. We would like the Arabs to rally their forces in the interests of a solution of Arab problems. It does not serve our interests for us to stand on our own against dangers hanging over the entire Arab nation.

[Question] What is the Syrian position on the Lebanese crisis?

[Khaddam] Hostile forces wanted Lebanon to be a test case. They think that if they succeed in fragmenting Lebanon they can proceed to do the same to other Arab countries, all of which are candidates for this project. [passage omitted]

We went into Lebanon in response to a call for help from the Lebanese Government. The relationship between Syria and Lebanon has no equal between any other two Arab countries. Syria's capital is only 25 km from the Lebanese border. Syria's heartland in Homs is just 30 km from the Lebanese border. Tartus is only 25 km. Should Israel manage to control Lebanon, it will in effect be able to break through Syria from the coast, the middle, and the capital.

Thus the question for us is no longer one of just extinguishing the fire of sectarian sedition in Lebanon. It is to ward off the Israeli menace that potentially poses a threat to Syria from Lebanon. If Israeli forces succeed in penetrating Lebanon, it will be possible for them to get to Damascus in under 1 hour.

In 1982, Syria moved two divisions of its military forces over to Lebanon to confront and stem the Israeli invasion. Israeli forces could have destroyed Damascus using ordinary artillery, since they were just 25 km from it. So the Lebanese problem inevitably became a national Syrian one. The Lebanese problem also has an Arab dimension.

[Question] What is the size of the Syrian opposition and how influential it is on internal conditions in Syria?

[Khaddam] We welcome the existence of opposition in Syria because the process of criticism and countercriticism improves conditions and helps reach the best solutions as a result of rich concepts and positions. We are aware that in each country there are forces that rule and forces that oppose. This situation does not exist in practice because we cannot say that there is an opposition in Syria. However, there are individuals who oppose. They live abroad and have no weight at home. However, no danger will result from their return to Syria.

The most that any of them can say is that he can muster the support of 10 people. These individuals left the country a long time ago, and people have forgotten them.

Some of them left for one reason or another; some left after having been involved in terrorist operations with the Muslim Brothehood. Some of them have returned to Syria, and the others continue to live abroad. Some have relations with other Arab states, and we in Syria do not feel that they have a real presence at home. They meet on the shores of the Geneva lakes, and this does not pose any problems. Let them bask in the sunshine at the expense of some states, which we thank because they pay tens of thousands for our citizens' entertainment and pleasure.

[Question] What is Syria's position on the convocation of the international peace conference and what is Syria's attitude toward the USSR foreign minister's proposal calling for forming an Arab committee from the concerned states to prepare for the conference?

[Khaddam] As far as I know, the United States has agreed to the international peace conference. [sentence as published] No U.S. official has stated that the United States has accepted the idea of the international conference. As we know, there was the proposal to holding a UN Security Council session to approve the convocation of such a conference, but the United States did not agree to that.

Therefore, there is nothing to indicate that the international conference will be held in the foreseeable future. Naturally, the Israelis reject the idea, and the U.S. rejection of the idea may be based on the Israeli rejection.

In Syria, we have agreed to the convocation of the international conference with the participation of the USSR and under U.S. supervision. However, the current developments do not indicate that the international conference will be held in the near future.

The Soviet foreign minister's proposal for forming a five-sided Arab committee composed of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO to prepare for the conference can be discussed if it is agreed to hold the conference. But if the conference is just in the imagination, what use are the committees and why dispute and increase the existing differences? There is nothing to differ about?

[Question] You have said that you are for an international Middle East peace conference. Suppose the conference produced a treaty recognizing Israel within secure boundaries. Will you go along with such an outcome?

[Khaddam] The international conference by no means means bilateral treaties. Besides, Syria's peace conditions are clear whether the international conference is convened or not. These conditions are an Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories and assurance of the inalienable rights of the palestinian people. In any case, peace need not necessarily lead to recognition since recognition is a sovereign right. Until recently, some Arab countries did not extend recognition to each other. The United States, for instance, does not recoznize the DPRK. Up until last year, there was no mutual recognition between Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. If some Arab countries do not recognize each other, the question arises as to recognition between Arab and non-Arab states.

It is unthinkable that one of these days you will see Israelis walking the streets of Damascus. This is out of the question. It is this thing sets us apart from some other Arab countries.

We in Syria are quite aware of the nature and aims of the Zionist movement. The principal objective of the Zionist movement is Greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. In its present state Israel is just a stage. Arens' reaction to Baker's statement was to say that events have shown that the 2,000-year-old dreams of the Jews are possible. In Syria we can only conduct our policies in response to the true nature of the Zionist movement.

They seek our annihilation to build the Jewish state. They have cherished this dream for 2,000 years. How can it be possible for us to make peace with them when they are nourished by such illusions and dreams and conduct themseives accordingly? For them it is a religious issue. This is an Israeli ideology. Tell an Israeli that there is no such thing as Greater Israel and you might as well tell a Muslim there is no God or religion. This is the kind of people you have in Israel. For them expansion is an article of faith and aggression a God-given right. How can we expect peace from them? The balance of forces was tipped in Israel's favor when Egypt and Syria were allied against it, and when Egypt opted out through the Camp David agreement, the gulf grew even wider.

There has been a progressive buildup in Israel's military might since Camp David. Who is this military prowess meant for when Egypt is out [of the confrontation] and Syria on its own is no match for Israel? It is meant for all the Arab countries. Israel does not base its military calculations on the strength of only one Arab country but rather on the combined strength of all the Arab countries. This is because it does not covet just one Arab state, but has designs on the territories of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. It is the Biblical Israeli state that Israel aspires to attain and for which it is arming itself. It was not to confront Syria that Israel joined Star Wars. Star Wars are far beyond Syria's means and indeed the means of many Arab countries. The question to be asked is: Why has Israel joined Star Wars?

AL-THAWRAH on 'Power Struggle' in Israel

JN0707070089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Jul 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes: The power struggle inside Israel, whose facts clearly emerged over Shamir's plan, is due, at this point, to a fact that is known inside the Zionist entity—that the conflict is now between those who are extreme and those who are more extreme, and not between hawks and doves as some have tried for a long time to depict.

Since the latest Knesset elections tipped the balance of government in favor of the Likud, and since the weight of fanatical religious parties and the extremist rightists parties emerged, all illusions pinned on the possibility of the Alignment's success and the illusory gifts it may offer to the peace process in the region have fallen.

Furthermore, since the balance was also tipped in favor of the joint policy planned by the two Yitzhaqs—Shamir and Rabin—to confront the intifadah [uprising] with suppression, murder, demolition of houses, and expulsion of Arab citizens from their lands, there remains no room for any stake or argument on any Israeli peaceful trend, especially since the declared policy of the partnership government is based on no's, which have clear significance, in its rejection of the requirements of just, permanent, and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Thus, the goal of Shamir's plan, which he tries to realize through a calculated charade, emerges. It is to extinguish the fire of the intifadah, which remains impregnable despite all attempts to contain it, deceive world public opinion, and drag some Arabs into the whirlpool of futile waiting.

New Latakia Governor Takes Constitutional Oath

JN1207195089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Latakia Governor Hasan al-Shahwan took the constitutional oath before President Hafiz al-Asad this evening. After taking the oath, the president received him and briefed him on his directives.

Afghanistan

Rebels' Violation of Cease-Fire Reported

LD1207183489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Quoting a competent Armed Forces source, the BAKHTAR military section reported that the cease-fire, which was announced by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan in honor of the arrival of the auspicious 'Id al-Adha, has been violated in some regions of the country by the armed extremists, who are protected by Pakistan.

The extremists have sold out. They have violated the cease-fire in Nangarhar, Paktia, Zabol, and Qandahar Provinces as well as in Khowst Major District and in the Kabul Province area. They have fired heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles on these areas. Full details of this report will be published to inform our dear compatriots.

Rebel Commanders Reject Cease-Fire

BK1307001089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1824 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 12 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin field commanders have rejected a unilateral ceasefire offer by Afghan President Najibullah, the pro-resistance Afghan Media Resource Center (AMRC) reported Wednesday.

It blamed the government for breaking the ceasefire, due to come into effect Wednesday, by sending aircraft to bomb mujahidin positions around eastern Jalalabad Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. No casualties were reported in the raid, AMRC said.

(Reports from Kabul said the ceasefire collapsed Wednesday barely an hour after it came into force when Kabul troops launched retaliatory missile attacks on mujahidin positions.

(The rebels shelled army positions in the east and fired seven rockets into Kabul Wednesday, promping a retaliatory missile attacks on mujahidin positions outside the capital, government spokesman Mohammed Nabi Amani said.

("The ceasefire is over," he said, adding that government troops had resumed a push towards Towr Kham in the east, the main supply line for the resistance war effort.

(Government troops had ceased fire at 8 a.m. (0230 GMT) at the start of the four-day hajj holiday. The truce broke down after mujahidin fighters shelled army positions in the Jalalabad region just an hour later.)

The ceasefire was proclaimed late Monday by President Najibullah, who renewed his government's offer of national reconciliation and unconditional talks to end the decade-old Afghan civil war.

But government troops had reserved the right to hit back if they came under attack during the ceasefire period which was to expire Saturday. Mr. Najibullah had said that the truce would be extended if hostilities halted for the Hajj holiday.

Unilateral ceasefires proclaimed by the Soviet-backed government in the past have failed. But observers noted that the latest offer came with the government in a position of strength after significant gains made by the Army in the Jalalabad war front.

Council of Ministers Discusses Kabul's Security

LD1207190589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Following their continuous defeats in Jalalabad and other regions of the country, the extremist Armed Forces and their Pakistani supporters are embarking on criminal actions and terrorist activities, including firing rockets on Kabul city and other residential regions of the country with direct provocation from Pakistani militarists, Wahhabis, and their supporters.

In order to provide security for Kabul's citizens and in order to make contingency plans and to take protective measures against probable mishaps stemming from the hostile and inhumane actions by the extremist armed groups, a session was held this morning in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers. The deputy prime minister and some ministers and heads of departments and organizations also participated.

At the session, the series of actions taken by the government to extend urgent assistance via responsible organs to the affected citizens of Kabul when a mishap occurs were considered.

When considering the results of measures that have been taken by the government, the session drew the attention of those attending the session and the officials in charge to the mishaps stemming from rocket attacks by criminal extremists and terrorists on Kabul City as well as the issue of providing security for the inhabitants and citizens against such attacks. Specific instructions in this respect were issued.

Moreover, the need for urgent medical assistance at hospitals, centers for receiving casualties, regulating the 24-hour activities of these centers, extending material assistance to the bereaved families, and a series of other issues in connection with this subject were assessed and the necessary measures taken.

Najibullah Decree Pardons, Suspends Sentences
LD1107200989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Afghan President Esteemed Najibullah has issued a decree on pardoning and suspending prison terms and on dropping prosecution of a number of those accused of crimes. The decree is as follows:

In respect of 'Id al-Adha, and on the basis of national reconciliation and on recommendation by the Nangarhar Province Defense Council, pardons and suspensions of the accused's sentences are approved; the suspensions and pardons for those who are referred to in the addendum of the proposal [by Nangarhar council] are also approved.

The decree adds that those prisoners who cannot pay pay the fines in one installment, and those prisoners who are in arrears should pay the fines in installments over the next 7 years.

Najibullah Issues Religious Festival Messages
LD1307083989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 12, BAKHTAR—On the occasion of 'Id festive on behalf of President Najibullah congratulatory messages have been communicated to the leaders of the Islamic countries.

While stating congratulations on the occasion of 'Id the messages express deep concern over increasing firing of rockets on the residential areas of the country including Kabul city by the extremists at a time when the pious people of Afghanistan are preparing themselves for observing 'Id religious festival.

The message also say that the extremists launch rockets in such a time that no pretext exists for war and fratricide in the Republic of Afghanistan because for achieving peace the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has announced several times that it is ready to hold talks with the opposition forces without any pre-conditions at any time any where.

The messages also demand from the leaders of the Islamic countries to use their Islamic and humanistic feelings and make Pakistan refrain from firing rockets on cities and villages in Afghanistan. The messages ask the said leaders to draw the attention of Pakistan that firing rockets on cities will bring no military or political result except killing of innocent Muslims and endangering peace and security in the region as well as in the world.

Najibullah Sends Message to UN Secretary General
LD1207203689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] A message from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, was wired to New York. He requested it be circulated as an official document at the United Nations.

You Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations: On behalf of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland I inform you about the grave and dangerous situation that has arisen as a result of Pakistan's continued intervention against the Republic of Afghanistan and as a result of clear violations of the Geneva accords by that country inside and around Afghanistan.

Pakistani interventionists, after signing the Geneva agreements, especially since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from the Republic of Afghanistan, have intensified their interference and intervention against our country and have intensified a major war against the people of Afghanistan. Pakistan militarists organize wide-ranging rocket attacks on the centers of a number of our country's provinces and residential areas including Kabul thereby breaching intergovernmental principles and infringing the agreements using the Afghan opposition mercenary. It has caused the martyrdom and injury of the toiling and oppressed people of the country including innocent women, children, and old people.

On 10 July alone 18 people were martyred and 131 others were wounded in the city of Kabul. Similarly, the poor people of the country have suffered a large amount of material damage. Right now as a result of this grave incident the hospitals of Kabul city are full of wounded people. The International Red Cross has been obliged to take action for first and immediate aid.

Pakistan's intervention against the Republic of Afghanistan is more terrorist in form than before. Its terrorist attacks include rocket attacks against Kabul and other provinces. They are mounted with the direct interference of the Pakistani military. In line with new U.S. and Pakistani plan the ultimate aim is to smear the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, which has proved its righteousness in the international community, to put this country under military pressure, and to deceive public opinion throughout the world about the defeats of their allies.

The Republic of Afghanistan deems as a total war the continuation of Pakistani intervention and rocket attacks on cities where they are mounted with the direct involvement of Pakistan against the cities of the country including the capital of Afghanistan. It believes that the

continuation of Pakistan's intervention causes grave consequences for peace and security in the region, the responsibility of which will rest with the Pakistan militarists.

We request the United Nations and your excellency to prevent the exacerbation of the situation using the UN resources and to persuade Pakistan to observe the Geneva Accords; and to prevent a situation which can be dangerous for peace and security in the region. The present complicated situation requires immediate action. We are sure that your excellency will play a good role in this respect. Taking the opportunity, I express my regards.

High Command Thanks Jalalabad Defenders

LD1207221389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] A message from the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces High Command to the noble inhabitants and Armed Forces units and companies in Jalalabad:

Respected 'ulema, tribes leaders and elders, courageous Republic of Afghanistan Armed Froces personnel, sisters and brothers—the heroic defenders of Jalalabad—please accept our good wishes and sincere congratulations for your unique courage and resistance in defending Jalalabad. By tolerating great difficulties and accepting all problems and foodstuff shortages, you have passed the most difficult days of the war which has been imposed on us by our fatherland's enemies.

The Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces High Command and all patriotic people in the country convey their boundless graditude for your heroism and courage, to you, the heroic defenders of Jalalabad. By defending the eastern gate of our beloved homeland, Afghanistan, and by repulsing our enemies' repeated attacks on peace and human life, have enhanced the glorious memory of Afghanistan's national strugglers. Our beloved homeland's enemies attempted, and are attempting, to endanger the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and the national traditions and customs of the patriotic Afghans and through intensifying military pressure bring to power the government consituted in Rawalpindi. Through that government they then to transform the free, nonaligned, neutral and united homeland of the Afghans into a battlefield for aliens and to raise their hand in the [word indistinct] of free Afghans.

Now, when the extremists' plans concerning the seizure of provinces and major centers of the country's cities have been foiled and disgraceful defeats have been inflicted on them in various parts of the country, the Afghan people's enemies by launching missiles on residential areas and cities in line with the prescriptions prepared by the Americans and the Pakistani militarists, want to take revenge for their defeats by the people of Afghanistan. By courageously defending Jalalabad, you showed that the blood of the Ghazis [holy warriors] of the Afghan-British wars and the conflict for Afghanistan's independence runs in your veins.

It is more than 2 years since the republican state of Afghanistan declared the national reconciliation policy and it as been working day and night for the cessation of the fratricidal war. Our people's enemies have intensified the war during this period, and after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces in February they have resorted to attacks and aggression against the country's provinces, highways and key points. They have not responded positively to the unilateral cease-fire declared by the state and mooted in talks in Holy Mecca.

In conditions when the Republic of Afghanistan has left open all doors to talks and understanding with the opposition armed forces and is trying to create a broad-based coalition government the extremist organizations' leaders have popped out their heads from behind the skirts of the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and continuing the fratricidal war have transformed our country into a battlefield. The responsibility for the continued bloodshed rests with the extremists' leaders and their backers.

Esteemed brothers and sisters, you who have tasted the bitterness of war more than others and have courageously fought against the aggressors, you are not alone. The heroic Afghan nation, the inhabitants of all provinces stand by you. Young and old people are preparing to defend Jalalabad, Khowst, and Qandahar. You recall that during the first attacks on Jalalabad, volunteers from Herat, Jowzjan, Laghman, and Kabul came to your aid. People shared with you on the battlefront the bread and water that they obtained with difficulty. Fraternal nationalities in the country and Armed Forces personnel in Kabul City and other provinces of the country were preparing themselves to defend Jalalabad. Air Force personnel worked day and night to repel and rebuff enemy attacks. Now the deeds of you, the courageous defenders of Jalalabad, are on the lips of homeland's children and are commemorated in national songs.

The Afghanistan Armed Forces High command, expressing gratitude for our beloved compatriots' sympathy for the inhabitants of Jalalabad, states that it will take all necessary measures to repair mosques and buildings and render assistance to Jalalabad City's inhabitants.

Elders, 'ulema and religious leaders, Armed Forces personnel, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan members, political allies, tribal units, and social organizations: We congratulate you on the arrival of the auspicious days of 'Id al-Adha. I hope that you shall pass the days of 'Id in peace and tranquillity. I express thanks to all of you for tolerating the difficulties of war and inflicting fatal blows on the enemy, and wish you further successes in defending our country's territorial integrity and national sovreignty, consolidating state power in the region, political awareness, enhancing combat readiness

and exposing the aims of the enemies of faith and the homeland. The peace-loving people of Afghanistan are with you; justice and righteousness is with you. You shall be victorious in your rightful cause. Success comes from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan

National Front Supports Defense Council Statement

LD1307073689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0446 GMT 13 Jul 89

["Central Council of National Front Shows Readiness To Defend Its Homeland"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, July 12, BAKHTAR—The present politico-military situation of Afghanistan clearly shows that the United States and Pakistan, contrary to what was expected, have trampled underfeet the provisions of the Geneva Accords and have given new dimensions to the war against the Republic of Afghanistan, says an announcement released here today by the Central Council of National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan. The involvement of the armed forces of Pakistan in war operations around Jalalabad City and the establishment of direct link of the United States with the heads of the extremist groups stationed in Peshawar are testifying to this fact.

The United States and Pakistan are stubbornly break the provisions of the Geneva Accords. Pressed by the world public opinion, they hypocritically speak of the political solution of the issues in Afghanistan but meanwhile persuade the Afghan opposition to the continuation of war and bloodshed says the announcement.

The presence of such a situation endangering the territorial integrity, national sovereignty and the country's independence calls for urgent defensive measures by the state sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan which was reflected in the statement released by the Supreme Defence Council on July 10.

While supporting the said statement of the Supreme Defence Council, the Central Council of National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan declares that it will be using all its available means for defending the country which has come under Pakistan's aggression.

Further on Samar Kheyl Fighting Reported

BK1107155989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] There is fierce fighting between the Afghan mujahidin and Kabul regime forces around Jalalabad. AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY reports say that during intense fighting in Samar Kheyl village, 11 km east of Jalalabad, the mujahidin damaged 2 tanks and killed 19 soldiers, including 2 Kabul officers.

Meanwhile, mujahidin sources have described as misleading the Kabul regime's claims that its forces are advancing toward (Khusk Diwar), an important location in Samar Kheyl. According to these sources, Kabul regime forces are under a total mujahidin seige.

According to a delayed report, the mujahidin killed and wounded a number of Kabul regime soldiers at Baghlan airport on 4 July. A tank and another vehicle were also damaged.

Military Situation Reported 11 Jul

LD1107190789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] The heroic units and companies of Nangarhar Province, yesterday, carried out combat operations east of Samar Kheyl and cleared a large area of Pakistani-protected extremist groups. The Armed Forces counter-offensive in this area was very wide and successful.

An Armed Forces spokesman told the BAKHTAR correspondent that during the clearing and search operations which were carried out in areas of Chaprahar and Sorkh Rud, a large quantity of weapons and ammunition belonging to the extremists has been seized by our Armed Forces. Also, in order to prevent the enemies of our Muslim people making a counterattack, new security posts have been formed in the Shaykh Masri area of Sorkh Rud District.

The spokesman added that as a result of the operations, one 154mm gun, 552 mortar mines, 362 missile rounds, 20 rounds for the Sakar-20, 215 rounds for rocket launchers, 270 rounds for recoilless guns, 10 boxes of ammunition for light weapons, 30 hand grenades and thousands of copies of Wahhabi propaganda leaflets were seized.

The spokesman said that the extremist groups, who have lost their credibility because of their recent defeats on the battlefield, yesterday, supported by the heavy weapon and artillery fire of Pakistani Army Corps No 11, shelled the security posts of Behsud region and residential areas as a result of which one member of the Armed Forces was martyred and four others were wounded.

According to the report as a result of retaliatory actions by the Armed Forces units and companies, 44 enemy were killed and 62 were wounded. A ring-leader and a number of Pakistani military-men and five Saudi Wahhabis were among the dead.

Fighting Continues Before Hajj Holiday Cease-Fire

BK1207011189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1811 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Kabul, July 11 (AFP)—Afghan Government forces pounded rebel positions in the mountains east of Kabul Tuesday [11 July], residents said, hours before a unilateral cease-fire was due to go into effect.

Missiles, believed to be Soviet-made Urugans, were fired from near the airport at mujahidin positions in the Pagman Hills, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) from here, they said.

The cease-fire was declared by the Afghan Government for the hajj holiday starting Wednesday at the same time as they renewed a national reconciliation offer, and rallied the people to prepare for a war against Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Previous cease-fire announcements and national reconciliation offers have been rejected by the mujahidin, who have been fighting for the past decade to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

However, observers noted that the latest offer came with the government enjoying a position of strength following recent gains made by its armed forces in the Jalalabad region. [passage omitted]

Six rockets slammed into the capital Kabul Tuesday, killing four civilians, a day after fierce rocketing left 20 people dead by official count. [passage omitted]

The truce was announced as fighting raged around eastern Jalalabad where government forces reported further progress.

Government Spokesman Mohammed Nabi Amani told foreign reporters that the army had killed 44 mujahidin and wounded 62, had captured and destroyed a large quantity of arms and ammunition and established new security posts southwest of the city.

He did not mention government casualties in the fighting Monday, but said two civilians were killed when the mujahidin pounded southern Qandahar City with mortars.

(The pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said in Islamabad Tuesday that government forces had made three attempts in the last 24 hours to reopen the strategic 120 kilometre (75 mile) highway between Jalalabad and Kabul, cut by the mujahidin on July 5.

(During fighting in the Tungi area, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) east of Kabul 18 government troops were killed and four tanks and six vehicles detroyed, the agency said, adding that 10 soldiers had also been captured.

(AIP said 100 government troops had surrendered to the resistance in Samar Kheyl Monday 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of Jalalabad, adding that the mujahidin had launched a big attack in the area Tuesday afternoon.

(Western diplomats said the mujahidin were still occupying the heights overlooking Samarkhel.)

Saudi Arabian National Arrested in Nangarhar

LD1307074989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0434 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 12, BAKHTAR—Mugharam, [word indistinct] Abu-Mugharam [name as received] one of the Arab Wahhabis who is carrying out subversive activity along with the extremists in the surroundings of Jalalabad city was arrested yesterday in Chaprahar Subdistrict of Nangarhar, reports our military correspondent.

The report adds that Zahir Furali Mugharam [name as received] son of 'Ali Mugharam, a citizen of al-Nasa [name as received] village of al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia was arrested in Nangarhar Province while he was helping one of the Khalis groups.

The said Wahhabi got a slight injury on his right hand as well during the combat operations. The Armed Forces seized documents from the said person as well. In the primary investigations he has confessed to the armed activities against the popular sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Pakistani 'Spy' Arrested in Konduz

LD1307082289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 12, BAKHTAR—Mukhtar Gul, one of the Pakistani spies, who entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan along with an extremist Gulbuddin group for carrying out subversive activities was recently arrested in Konduz Province.

The spy who is a citizen of Peshawar and an officer of CID [Criminal Inverstigations Division] intelligence service of Pakistan went to Konduz for sabotage and espionage activities. The Pakistani spy who was carrying arms and other documents arrested in Konduz and in the primary investigations confessed to subversive and espionage activities against the popular sovereignty in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Further information on the issue will be broadcasted through the mass media of the country.

BAKHTAR Criticizes Western 'Propaganda'

LD2206064189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0518 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 21, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: The mass media of the Western countries have staged lots of deceptive hue and cries as if the United States has changed its policy after the defeat of bellicose extremists in Jalalabad city and reflected such an idea as if the two countries are in search of the political solution of the situation in Afghanistan.

However, the elapse of time showed that some ingenious objectives were behind such demagogic propaganda. These ill-intentions have been revealed in the world

press including the United States and Pakistan. One of these instances is the report released by the radio Voice of America in which the assertions of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, ringleader of one of the extremist groups, were reflected as such: Gulbuddin has stressed during the press conference that the Government of Pakistan has assured him several times that no change has come to the policy of Pakistan and Afghanistan and it keeps on its earlier stand.

If the attitude of the United States and Pakistan is observed in practice, one can conclude that no practical change to be indicative of the genuine intentions of the political solution of the situation in Afghanistan has been occurred but military assistance to armed extremists has been on increase and Pakistan is directly helping the armed extremists in their military operations against the Republic of Afghanistan. This was very clear right from the talks held between George Bush, the U.S. President and Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, in Washington in whose works there were contradictions. Their stand was clear because while they spoke of the political solution of Afghanistan, they also agreed on the continuation of military assistance to the government's opponents and the ruling out of the legitimate government of Afghanistan. This was also reaffirmed by daily FRONTIER POST published on May 29, 1989 in Peshawar. The daily has published that the prime minister of Pakistan had said to reporters that no change would come in the stand of Pakistan in regard with Afghanistan and the position of her country is clear in this connection.

The daily MUSLIM of Pakistan dated May 29, 1989 has also confirmed it. The daily HERALD TRIBUNE dated June 8, 1989 quoting Benazir Bhutto has noted that she had said in her meeting held in Washington to Mr Bush that their policies on Afghanistan should be continued and the United States pursues its present policy. These are all instances testifying to the demagogic claims made by the United States and Pakistan on Afghanistan.

The crux of the matter is that the United States and Pakistan want to divert the public opinions and to relieve their responsibility of the atrocities committed in Afghanistan by staging such propaganda.

Council of Ministers General Session Reported

LD0507112489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] The administrative office of the Council of Ministers has reported to BAKHTAR that an extraordinary general session of the Council of Ministers was held this morning in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the executive Committee of the Council of Ministers. The session was attended by deputy prime ministers, ministers, heads of departments and institutions of the Republic of Afghanistan.

At this session the transportation of foodstuff under the present special political and military situation and the supplying of flour to coupon holders, were comprehensively discussed because of their serious and extraordinary importance.

It was pointed out at this session that since March 1988 the specific envisaged plan indices have not been realized due weak organization of transportation, ineffective use of vehicles, and specific problems along the highways. For this reason, there are shortcomings in the distribution of coupon commodities, in particular flour. For the purpose of supplying on time the annual flour ration to coupon holders it is necessary that all possibilities and reserves in the ministries, departments, and institutions be utilized and their responsible and broad participation in the transportation of wheat should be ensured. A number of ministries, departments, and institutions are volunteering to transport the amount of flour needed by their respective personnel from Hayratan Port to Kabul by utilizing their surplus reserves; and some institutions are transporting a portion of the above ration [as heard].

Within this resolution of the Council of Ministers specific duties in this respect were allotted to the relevant organs in order to supply the flour ration of coupon holders in the current year.

The regular session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers was held this afternoon in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, and with participation of deputy prime ministers, some ministers and heads of departments of the Republic of Afghanistan.

At this session, in accordance with the agenda, a series of important socioeconomic and cultural issues were considered and specific decisions were made. Above all, the issue of better organization of returnees' affairs was discussed. It was emphasized that the solution of issue relating to the return of refugees to their ancestor's homeland is one of the fundamental and major duties of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Despite the continuation and intensification of the imposed war and undesirable financial situation of the country, the sum of 2 billion afghanis has been allocated from the government budget, to provide suitable conditions for the return of refugees.

Specific work for providing the necessary facilities for the returnees has been carried out. Necessary [word indistinct] documents for securing the rights of the returnees were drafted and approved. Three major reception centers have been created in Islam Qala, Towr Kham, and Spin Buldak. Nine ordinary reception camps and 12 peace border towns have been set up in the border provinces, and 200,000 returnees have been

transported from these centers to their permanent residential regions since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation. Of this figure over 70,000 in 1988 and 8,325 in the first months of 1989, have returned to the homeland. In order to feed and accommodate the returnees, 24 peace guest houses have been created in the country with the capability of receiving 15,100 returnees at one time.

In addition to the accomplished tasks, shortcomings were also noted at this session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers and a resolution was approved.

The resolution envisages the creation of a coordinating commission to coordinate implementation by all relevant organs of their tasks, under the chairmanship of deputy prime ministers and with the participation of a number of ministers, heads of departments and deputy ministers. In addition to this, specific duties were allocated to the commission for the coordination of returnees' affairs, ministries, departments, and executive committees of the provinces to remove shortcomings and [word indistinct] by this resolution of the Council of Ministers.

At this session the issue of attracting the cooperation of the United Nations and its special agencies was considered.

At today's session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers the issues relevant to accelerating work on the new Kabul-Bagram road was considered. Specific duties were allocated to the relevent organs for speedier completion of construction work on this road which will play an extraordinary role in increasing the volume of transportation of basic commodities which are needed by Kabul citizens.

At this session of the Council of Ministers the status of the national archives was carefully considered and it was pointed out that during its history Afghanistan was the cradle of cultures and a major civilization, and the valuable cultural and historic heritage which are the products of the thoughts and creative ability of noble men in the spheres of science, art, and knowledge, must be protected and safeguarded responsibly. The collection of manuscripts and historical documents in the national archives of Afghanistan, at the national, regional, and international level, form the major portion of this rich heritage which at present comprises over 100,000 historic documents and 12,000 volumes of rare literary, philosophical, and historic manuscripts as well as other archive documents which are being used by researchers and literary personalities in the country.

A resolution was approved to improve the situation and upgrade the activities of the national archives. This resolution seeks the solving of the issues regarding further improving archive documents, equipping the national archive with a laboratory to repair and bind relics, providing technical means, securing better relations with friendly countries and international institutions, training cadres required in the relevant fields, and providing feasible grounds for research on the relics of the national archives, were envisaged.

At this session of the Council of Ministers necessary decisions were made on a number of legislative documents, including the draft law on higher educational institutions and the draft provision on elections in higher and vocational education institutions as well as on some other issues.

Accord Signed With USSR on Flood Prevention

LD0807181189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] A contract on reinforcing the Amu River banks was signed today between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union at the Ministry of Commerce. The contract was signed and documents exchanged by Burhan Ghiasi, Afghan commerce minister; and Kobrovich, Soviet commerical attache in Kabul. In keeping with this contract work, the building of a diversion dam in the area of Hairatan will start in a month. As a result the destruction caused by seasonal rains will be prevented.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart in Delhi

BK0807132789 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has had talks in New Delhi with his Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao. Friday [7 July], they exchanged views on regional issues in the context of the (?situation) arising out of the postponed meeting of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] council of ministers. The meeting was scheduled to be held in Islamabad last week. Both the ministers agreed that the SAARC should not only be preserved, but also strengthened. With this point of view, they agreed that the postponed SAARC council meeting should be reconvened at the earliest convenience of all the member states.

Later, talking to newsmen in New Delhi, Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud said Bangladesh would not interfere in the India-Sri Lanka dispute. But he suggested that regional issues should be settled through consultations. He said (?we are trying) to evolve a system of consultations whenever such situation [words indistinct] arises.

The SAARC council meeting was postponed because of Sri Lankan boycott for India's refusal to withdraw troops from the island by the end of this month.

The Bangladeshi minister left New Delhi Friday afternoon for Madras en route to Colombo. He is also likely to visit Nepal, Pakistan, and the Maldives.

Foreign Minister Returns From Kathmandu 11 Jul
BK1107165489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud returned home today from Kathmandu at the end of his visit to three SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries. During the visit the foreign minister had useful talks with his counterparts of Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India. Besides consultations on the SAARC ministerial meeting, the Bangladesh foreign minister had talks with his counterparts on matters of bilateral interest.

Paper Proposes 'More Pragmatic' SAARC
BK1207132189 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 89 p 5

[Editorial: "SAARC and Its Future"]

[Text] The seven-nation SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Foreign Ministers' meeting scheduled to be held on July 1 and 2 in Islamabad is reported postponed following Sri Lanka's decision not to participate. This has come as no surprise to the member countries that could not have missed the developments in the relations between a leading SAARC country, India, and some of its neighbours, Sri Lanka in particular. Ever since Sri Lanka made its decision known, speculation centred on such an eventuality for the simple reason that Sri Lanka, the third most populous country, staying out, the task of drawing up the agenda for the next SAARC summit or the summit itself would lose much of its purpose. Needless to say Sri Lanka's decision to boycott the meeting stems from the Indian government rejecting the deadline set by Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa for the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to leave his country by the end of July.

Meanwhile reports carried by the regional media suggested the need felt by member countries for bilateral issues to be discussed at the SAARC summit. To which the Indian reaction has been one of protest on the ground that bilateral disputes are outside the SAARC charter.

Putting two and two together (i.e. Sri Lanka insisting on India pulling out its IPKF and India refusing to comply, the latter's caveat that bilateral disputes are to be kept out of the SAARC agenda and the growing SAARC instinct being opposed to it) one would easily see exactly where or what the SAARC or its fate was headed for. This involves not simply the risk of the current summit coming off at all; it involves the bigger question if the Regional Organisation itself was not visibly moving on to the rock.

Born in December 1985 SAARC is yet to grow out of its teething troubles, it seems. Thankfully, though, the past four years have witnessed the ritual of the annual summits being held, hosted by one member country or another, discussing mostly the generalities and the proceedings kept limited to such innocuous subjects as cultural exchange, education, and sports and so on. The innocuousness however has been more apparent than real. Questions insistently exercising minds, both inside the summit or outside, were specially those of a contentious nature—involving some small country or other with its bigger and mightier neighbour, SAARC-member India. Down this subterranean or subliminal process also grew the impression with increasing lucidity that disputed issues kept by design out of the SAARC ambit was bound eventually to turn this South Asian organisation into a shadow rather than substance of cooperation.

It may also be quite in place to add that Foreign Ministers meetings and the summits notwithstanding, events one after another involving, again, some small country or another with India has laid more and more strain, over the years, on bilateral relations reinforcing the impression and the consequent conclusion that the spirit of cooperation was rather insidiously turning into that of progressive non-cooperation. With the result that relations, say, between Nepal and India, markedly slummed on trade and transit disputes while those between Sri Lanka and India suffered a much worse slide. As for Bangladesh with its relations with India kept up to par, it pins its hopes on bilateral negotiations, now long under way, to have some of the bilateral questions settled to mutual satisfaction.

Since much of the hitherto unexpressed thinking is tending to the surface—and not without unhappy reactions over some questions—it seems more than time to reconsider seriously if the scope and terms of reference of SAARC should not stretch enough to make its deliberations and functions more pragmatic, meaning turning it into a real regional body of cooperation, where nothing would be too sacred or delicate to be sorted out through candid discussion.

This seems the most plausible course for a regional body like the SAARC to follow—bar which it might, one fears, split on the hidden rock. Cynics talk of Indian hegemonism in the region. While any country is within its rights to develop its economy or defence, regardless of what others might say, it cannot however abdicate its moral and regional obligations to its neighbours. That is very much a question of helping promote any available opportunity for conciliation past all temptation to confrontation.

Hasina Views Movement Against Ershad Government
BK0907105389 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jun 89 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Awami League chief and the leader of the Eight-party Alliance on Wednesday asserted that the present mass movement would continue till the removal of the present Government of President Ershad and the establishment of a democratic Government elected through a free and fair polls.

Addressing a mass rally organised by the Eight-party Alliance at Bangabandhu Avenue after a half-day hartal [strike] on the day in protest against the tax loaded anti-people Budget Sheikh Hasina called upon all democratic, progressive and preliberation forces to forge greater unity in order to carry forward the mass movement. She expressed her firm confidence in the final victory of the people's movement against the present regime.

Congratulating people for their spontaneous support in observing hartal on the day Awami League chief said that once again the people demonstrated their total no confidence against the present government. She observed that the present regime was so indifferent to people's demand that it did not resign even after a continued mass movement in the last few years. She said that there was no alternative to united movement in restoring the democratic rights of the people by overthrowing the present regime.

She, however, reminded the people to remain alert against those who were conspiring with the ruling junta in the name of movement. She said that the movement in the past failed due to such conspiracies of those forces who wanted to keep power inside the barrack. She added that the parties which claim themselves to be involved in movement should declare their political and economic programmes to the people so that the nation could know about the future after the removal of the present government.

Referring to her seven-point programmes she said that her party and alliance were committed to establish democracy, rule of law, stable political and economic system ending all kinds of exploitation and consolidate the national independence by restoring the spirit of the Liberation War.

Terming the Budget for the next fiscal year as tax-loaded and anti-people the Awami League chief questioned the authority of the present Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] to pass a Budget for the nation. She pointed out that the present Jatiya Sangsad was elected through a farcical election boycotted by the nation and it had no credibility within and outside the country. She said that the present "illegal" Jatiya Sangsad had no authority to make any law and all such 'black laws' would be replealed by the elected democratic government in future.

The Awami League chief held the present Government responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation. She said that the economy of the country had been shattered by unabated corruption and wrong policies pursued by the present government. The prices of essential commodities had gone up multiplying the sufferings of common people and the country had been made dependent on foreign aid through reckless spendings in unproductive sectors, she observed. [passage omitted]

'Powerful Group' Suspected of Drug Trafficking

BK0407011089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2027 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 3 (AFP)—The government is investigating the involvement of a very powerful group of people in Bangladesh's lucrative drug trade, a government minister has said.

Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan said in Parliament late Sunday [2 July] that the names of those suspected of being part of the group "would be kept secret for the time being for the sake of investigation."

Police and customs officials arrested 294 persons, including foreigners, in the first five months of the year on charges of smuggling drugs into Bangladesh.

Home Ministry officials said four Pakistani nationals who had been sentenced to death by an anti-drug court several months ago were awaiting execution.

Mr. Hasan said that since 1985, 70.41 kilograms (154.3 pounds) of heroin, 279.8 kilos (615.5 pounds) of marijuana, 10 kilos (22 pounds) of opium, 24.15 kilos (53.1 pounds) hashish and other drugs had been seized by security agencies. They confiscated 45.7 kilos (100.5 pounds) of mostly high-quality heroin in the first five months of this year alone, officials said.

The leader of the opposition, Abdur Rab, has accused the government of failing to detect and punish those who had been financing the "costly business of drug smuggling." He said he feared that "top notchers in the administration might also be involved" in the lucrative business.

Begum Hasna Moudud, wife of Bangladesh Prime Minister Moudud Ahmad, has said there has been an increase in poppy cultivation in the country, but gave no figures.

According to unofficial estimates, impoverished Bangladesh now has over five million drug addicts, 50,000 of them in Dhaka.

Drug officials say that large quantities of drugs continue to flow into Bangladesh from neighbouring India and Burma, but lack of modern drug-detecting equipment in border areas has impeded efforts to check smuggling.

Police Seize 6 Kg of Heroin in Dhaka

BK3006140989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 30 Jun 89

[Text] Dhaka, June 30 (AFP)—Police seized six kilograms (13.2 pounds) of heroin worth 60 million taka ($1.87 million) in a raid at a crowded bus terminal in the capital, officials said Friday.

They said police arrested two people late Thursday from the roof of a bus where the heroin was wrapped in six polythene bags and hidden in two well-packed cartons.

Special Drug Squad officers said the raid on the bus, which had arrived at the Mirpur suburban terminal from a western border town, followed a tip-off.

Police were interrogating the two suspects for possible involvement with international drug smugglers.

The cartons contained colour television frames and the heroin bags were hidden inside the frames along with foreign cosmetics, officials said.

A week ago, drug squad officers had seized a similar amount of heroin from a bus at the same terminal and arrested three people.

Drug smuggling carries a maximum punishment of death in Bangladesh, which began as a drug-transit centre a decade ago but has since turned into a major market with some five million drug addicts, according to press reports.

More Heroin Seized in Jessore

BK0607061289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0605 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 6 (AFP)—Border guards in western Bangladesh have seized nearly 20 kilograms of heroin valued locally at $6.25 million in one of several recent drug hauls, press reports said Thursday.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) border guards were acting on a tip-off when they raided a hotel room late Wednesday in the town of Jessore, 135 kilometers from here, the reports said. The guards found the heroin packed in 73 small polythene packets inside a gunny bag, the reports said, adding that the room's occupant had fled.

The seizure, believed to be the second largest heroin haul ever in Bangladesh, came a month after the BDR seized 24 kg of heroin from two inns in Jessore.

Drug traffickers are increasingly using the town, which borders India's West Bengal State, as a safe land route, local officials have said.

The pro-government DAINIK BANGLA said that Wednesday's haul brought the total amount of heroin seized in Jessore alone during the past year to 83 kg, locally worth about $30 million.

According to a recent newspaper report quoting drug experts, Bangladesh security agents seized 86 kg of heroin during fiscal 1988-89 ended June 30, more than 10 times the amount hauled during the previous year.

Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan recently disclosed to parliament that in the first six months of this year, authorities have seized smuggled drugs including heroin worth $140.62 million.

Drug running carries a maximum sentence of death in Bangladesh.

According to recently released government figures, Bangladesh has some 200,000 drug addicts, but independent estimates put the number as high as five million, including 50,000 in Dhaka.

Heroin on Boat Confiscated

BK0907050289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Dhaka, July 9 (AFP)—Drug squad officers recovered eight kilogrammes (17.6 pounds) of heroin worth 2.5 million dollars from a motor launch transporting mangos, officials said Sunday.

Officers received a tip-off and boarded the launch late Saturday when it arrived from the coastal Barisal town and avoided berthing at the capital's main Buriganga River terminal and headed instead for a nearby island. The heroin was found in four plastic bags concealed in two mango baskets.

Two people were held for questioning, the officials said.

With the latest haul drug squad officers and border guards in southwestern Bangladesh have seized nearly 29 kilogrammes (64 pounds) of heroin worth nine million dollars over the past week. [passage omitted]

Heroin Seized at Railway Station

BK1007103289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Dhaka, July 10 (AFP)—Drug squad officers recovered 3.5 kilograms (7.7 pounds) of heroin worth one million dollars hidden in unclaimed pumpkins on a passenger train here, officials said Monday.

The officers acting on a tip-off searched the express train at Dhaka's main railway station after it arrived late Sunday from the port city of Chittagong. They spotted three abandoned pumpkins in one of the compartments and cut them open to reveal the plastic-packed high grade heroin. [passage omitted]

With Sunday's haul drug squad officers and border guards in southwestern Bangladesh have seized nearly 32.5 kilos (71.5 pounds) of heroin worth 10 million dollars over the past week. [passage omitted]

Heroin Discovered at Bus Terminal

BK1107163089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 11 (AFP)—The anti-drug agency has recovered five kilograms (11 pounds) of heroin worth 1.56 million dollars hidden in unclaimed molasses containers at a bus terminal in western Bangladesh, press reports said Tuesday [11 July].

Officers of the Narcotics and Liquor Department, following a tip, Monday raided the restroom of a Bangladesh Road Transport Corp. (BRTC) station in Jessore district and found the drugs wrapped in 48 polyethylene bags, the reports said. The officials suspected that drug traffickers were waiting to ship the drug to the capital Dhaka on BRTC's night service.

Jessore, 136 kilometers (85 miles) from here, has turned into a favourite transit point for drugs, officials said.

Police and border guards in Bangladesh have seized 41 kilos (7.2 pounds) [as received] of heroin worth 14.06 million dollars over the past week. [passage omitted]

Heroin Seizures Up 10 Times in Fiscal 1988-89

BK0107131889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Dhaka, July 1 (AFP)—Bangladeshi security agents seized 86 kilograms (189.2 pounds) of heroin in fiscal 1988-89 ended Friday [30 June], more than 10 times the amount hauled in during the previous year, the daily DAINIK SANGBAD said Saturday.

The total haul—which compared to only eight kilograms (17.6 pounds) of heroin seized in fiscal 1987-88—made Bangladesh a major drug market, the paper quoted drug experts as saying.

More than 82 percent of the heroin was captured in May and June, the experts said, adding that most of that was recovered from the Jessore and Magura Districts bordering India's state of West Bengal.

Bangladesh Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan recently told Parliament that over the last six months, authorities had seized smuggled drugs worth 140.62 million dollars. Drug running carries a maximun sentence of death in Bangladesh.

The experts said that authorities also recovered drugs from northern Rajshahi and Pabna Districts and from Chittagong and the tourist town of Cox's Bazaar in the southeast.

According to recently released government figures, Bangladesh has some 200,000 drug addicts, but independent estimates put the number as high as five million. [passage omitted]

India

Gandhi Letter Delivered to Sri Lankan President

BK1207161989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated India's willingness to resume discussions with Sri Lanka on the withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] simultaneously with deciding a schedule for the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka Agreement. In his letter to the Sri Lanka president, Mr Gandhi said New Delhi desires friendly relations with Colombo and is willing to resolve any misunderstanding through mutual consultations at any time and place of Mr Premadasa's convenience.

The prime minister emphasized, if discussions for the purpose are not acceptable to Sri Lanka, India will have to decide the details of PKF withdrawal unilaterally, consistent with India's responsibilities and obligations under the India-Sri Lanka Agreement.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's letter was delivered to the Sri Lanka president by the prime minister's special emissary, Mr B.G. Deshmukh, in Colombo this evening.

The brief two-page letter asserts that the India-Sri Lanka Agreement is meant to preserve the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka and to ensure the safety, security, and legitimate interests of the Tamils. It points out that nearly a thousand Indian soldiers had made the supreme sacrifice in fulfilling India's obligations as a guarantor of this agreement. Since the signing of the agreement, not only have the provincial council elections been held, but the parliamentary and presidential elections were also conducted. The present situation in the Northeastern Province is far more settled and peaceful than elsewhere in Sri Lanka, the letter added. Despite all this, the devolution package as promised to the Tamils has not been implemented. These are incontrovertible facts. We should let facts speak for themselves.

Mr Gandhi underlined that both India and Sri Lanka agree that the PKF should be withdrawn. In fact, they also agree that the withdrawal had commenced even before President Premadasa asked for it, and a broad time frame for PKF's withdrawal has also been discussed. Mr Gandhi pointed out that the discussions on finalizing the details were proposed by the Sri Lankan foreign minister at Harare only a few days before Mr Premadasa's unilateral announcement on the 1st of June.

While reiterating India's willingness to cooperate with the Sri Lankan Government to resolve pending issues, Mr Gandhi stressed that India has traditionally honored sanctity of the agreements it has signed with other countries and commitments solemnly undertaken under such agreements. India will under no circumstances deviate from this policy affecting its concerns.

Mr Gandhi also said that it has been India's practice to maintain the confidentiality of official correspondences, particularly between heads of states or governments, unless otherwise agreed upon. He, however, pointed that the gist of president's messages to him was more often made available to the media before they reached him. Moreover, all the recent correspondences between them had been officially made public by the Sri Lankan Government. Mr Gandhi said he was thus constrained to depart from the tradition by authorizing his communication being made public after it has been received by the Sri Lankan president.

In Colombo, the prime minister's emissary, Mr B.G. Deshmukh, had an exclusive session with President Premadasa after delivering Mr Rajiv Gandhi's letter to him. Mr Deshmukh also conveyed a verbal message to the Sri Lankan president. The talks were followed by an hour-long meeting between Indian and Sri Lankan delegations. The Indian side included the high commissioner, Mr L.L. Mehrotra; while the Sri Lankan delegation included the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratane. Mr Deshmukh is expected to meet the Sri Lankan president again tomorrow, and there will be another official-level meeting also.

'Text' of Letter

BK1307102289 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0940 GMT 13 Jul 89

["Text" of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Letter to Sri Lankan President Premadasa, dated 11 July 1989]

[Text] I have your letters of 30th June and 5th July. I do not wish to enter into a debate on various interpretations of mutual obligations assumed by our two sovereign nations. These are quite clear. I also do not wish to go into the validity of assertions like the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] having resumed violence on 2d August 1987 whereas the arms surrender started and amnesty letter was handed over by the Sri Lankan Government to the LTTE 3 days later. We should let facts speak for themselves.

There is an agreement between our two countries. This agreement is meant to preserve the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka and to ensure the safety, security and legitimate interests of the Tamils. Nearly a thousand Indian soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice in fulfillment of India's obligations as a guarantor of this agreement since the signing of the agreement, not only have the provincial council elections been held, but also the parliamentary and presidential elections. The situation in the Northeastern Province is far more settled and peaceful than elsewhere in Sri Lanka. Despite all this, the devolution package promised to the Tamils has not been implemented. These are incontrovertible facts.

Both of us agree that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] should be withdrawn. Both of us agree that we had commenced the withdrawal even before you asked for it. A broad time frame for IPKF's withdrawal had in fact been discussed. Discussions on finalising the details were proposed by your foreign minister at Harare only a few days prior to your unilateral announcement of 1st June.

I have repeatedly said that the IPKF's withdrawal schedule should be worked out through joint consultations along with a simultaneous schedule for the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka agreement. We are willing to resume discussions on this subject at any time and place of your convenience. Your colleague, the honourable Mr Thondaman, who met me here, would have conveyed to you our desire for friendly relations and our willingness to resolve any misunderstanding through mutual consultations. If, however, discussions for this purpose are not acceptable to you, we will have to decide the details of IPKF's withdrawal unilaterally consistent with our responsibilities and obligations under the India-Sri Lanka agreement.

While I reiterate Government of India's willingness to cooperate with your government to resolve pending issues, I must emphasise to your excellency that India has traditionally been mindful of the sanctity of the agreements it signs with other countries and of commitments solemnly undertaken under such agreements. India will under no circumstances deviate from this policy affecting our concerns.

It has been our practice to maintain the confidentiality of official correspondence, particularly between heads of state or government, unless otherwise agreed upon. However, the gist of your messages to me was more often than not made available to the media before they reached me. Now I find that all our recent correspondence has been officially made public by the Sri Lanka Government. I may thus be constrained to depart from tradition by authorising this communication being made public, after you receive it.

Minister on 'Discriminatory' U.S. 301 Trade Act

BK0907083689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] India has successfully mobilized wide support for its stand against the discriminatory U.S. Super 301 Trade Act. New Delhi's stand has been that the act is discriminatory and it was not prepared to discuss anything on the threat of retaliation. This view of India has been supported among others by the EEC, Mexico, Uruguay, Finland, Australia, Malaysia, Yugoslavia, and Canada.

The commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in an interview that the Indian stand has been vindicated and the U.S. should accept the views of the international community.

The minister said India was always willing to have dialogues to promote trade. He said a number of joint commissions with countries, including the United

States, had been set up to discuss bilateral issues. He, however, said that on the Super 301 Act, New Delhi was not willing to hold discussion since the action was purely unilateral.

Editorial Blames United States for Insat Failures
BK0907095689 Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Evil Star on Insats"]

[Text] Setbacks in scientific or technological work need not always be taken as failures. But the number of accidents vitiating the Insat programme raises questions about the nature of these mishaps. There may be doubts whether the "accidents" are not sabotage. While the Government of India can do precious little now about the Insat-1D satellite, damaged while being hoisted onto a launch vehicle at Cape Canaveral in the US, it must search for plausible answers to the question why all the four satellites in the series have been delayed by one reason or another. Insat-1A, launched from the US in 1982, died a premature death only 147 days after the launch, even though its projected life was seven years. It ran into a series of snags. Its solar sail had to be replaced, its C-band antenna got jammed, the solar sail refused to open up, and finally it lost its earth lock, necessitating the satellite's deactivisation. Insat-1C, placed in orbit by the French Ariane vehicle in July 1988, after the explosion of the US "Challenger" shuttle forced a change of plans, was made useless within just two days when it too curiously suffered the loss of earth lock because of short-circuit in one of the power bases. And on June 21, Insat-1D was damaged beyond repair by a dangling hook of a power-pulley while being hoisted onto the launch-rocket. The damage is being assessed, but prima facie the retrieval appears impossible. Only Insat-1B, put in orbit in October 1983, is operational, though snags have shortened its life considerably. If all the four satellites were fully operational, they would have immensely enhanced India's telecommunications network and with specialised payloads like Very High Resolution Radiometre, helped agricultural operations with weather pictures. In a predominantly agrarian economy and a vast country like India, the satellites' importance is crucial for economic development. All the four satellites, it is to be noted, were manufactured by the Ford Aerospace, of the US. The least India should ask is full compensation for the losses the country has suffered.

Security Forces Kill 10 'Terrorists' in Punjab
BK1107145189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] In Punjab, 10 terrorists were killed by the Security Forces in 2 separate encounters in Amritsar District last night. Five terrorists were shot dead in an encounter near Algankuri village. One CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] was also seriously injured in the incident.

In the other encounter in Tarn Taran area, five terrorists were killed. Their bodies were recovered this morning. All the five terrorists have been identified.

Bomb Blast in Assam Injures Seven 12 Jul
BK1207125289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] In Assam, a powerful bomb exploded this morning in a daily market of Udalguri town causing serious injuries to seven persons. The condition of three of them is reported to be critical. Police suspected to be the handiwork of Bodo miscreants.

'Powerful' Bomb Blast Injures 6 in Kashmir 12 Jul
BK1307045789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, at least six people, including a woman, were injured in a powerful bomb blast in Srinagar yesterday evening. Agency reports say that the mishap occurred when a bomb planted in a vehicle exploded. Two other vehicles parked nearby were also damaged. The injured have been admitted to the hospital. The condition of two of them is stated to be serious. The police have rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area.

Iran

Preparations for Khomeyni Remembrance Ceremony
LD1007224589 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Tens of government organs including the Construction Jihad Ministry are contributing to various aspects of the nationwide 40th day cermonies marking the sad demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

The day, July 13, has consequently been declared a public holiday.

Over the past few days, construction jihad constructed a majestic dome over the tomb of the founder of the Islamic Republic, complete with a banner.

Other government organs including the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] are also contributing to the efforts. The IRGC and the jihad have brought bulldozers to the area around the imam's tomb, levelling ground and making all necessary preparation for providing facilities to mourners who are expected to gather in millions on Thursday.

Also seventeen chain members of the travel-by-bus cooperatives have announced that they have earmarked at least 300 buses for taking people from various points of Tehran to the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery free of charge that day.

The Red Crescent Society of Iran which is to provide health and medical facilities to travellers to Tehran has erected first aid stations and medical service centers along all roads leading to the cemetery.

Thousands of provincial people intending to participate at the 40th-day ceremonies have walked all the way to the capital and have been provided temporary lodging facilities in various locations in and near Tehran.

While Iran Air, the airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran, too, has brought many foreign nationals who want to participate in the ceremonies of the great leader who brought glory to the Muslim world.

Among prominent guests to arrive so far, are leading Lebanese alim Allama Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Amal Movement chief Nabih Birri, leader of the People's Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and leader of the Palestinian National Salvation Front Col. Abu Musa.

From Pakistan, a 40 member delegation led by Minister of Commerce Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat will arrive in Iran Tuesday, while several Afghan mujahidin leaders from Peshawar are already here for education. The Education Ministry has not lagged behind, and has allocated 600 public schools as temporary lodging for arriving travellers, and the public relations of the ministry has said that thus far lodging reservation has been made for 45,000 travellers to Tehran.

Already phase one of the construction of the superstructure of the imam's tomb has been finished, the entirety of the surrrounding area now has electricity and the water department is busy with pipe-laying and other operatons for providing water to hundreds of thousands of mourners on Thursday.

The great Ruhollah left for his heavenly abode on June 3, and his funeral on June 6, was attended by over ten million mourners, believed to be the greatest ever human gathering in history.

Foreign Correspondents To Attend

LD0907115989 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Foreign journalists abroad can attend the commemoration ceremonies to be held in Tehran on Thursday, July 13 marking the 40th day of Imam Khomeyni's demise.

A statement issued by the Foreign Media Department of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance said those interested may obtain visas from Iran's diplomatic missions abroad.

Musavi Commemorates 40th Day

LD1207120989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The cabinet met this morning. At this meeting Prime Minister Musavi began by pointing out that it is the 40th day since the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be received in paradise, and he expressed condolences to the nation and to the members of the cabinet.

The prime minister added: Although nothing can ever alleviate the grief at the loss of our dear imam, it is the duty of the government and of all those who love the imam and consider that the path that the imam chose is the path that they will follow and promote in life. The difficulties and problems of daily life should not cause us to forget that uncompromising and direct path.

The prime minister added: The words, methods, and slogans of the imam concerning the world of the deprived, oppression, bullying, justice, the war of poverty against affluence, the history of our nation and the future of the Islamic society and also concerning all fields of domestic and foreign policies is explicit and clear. The prime minister expressed the hope that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue on this path under any circumstances and move forward in accordance with the criteria and methods set down by the imam and keep in line with the demands of a people in whom the imam had confidence. The people likewise understood the imam and rushed to assist him and the revolution, always and under any circumstances. [passage omitted]

Foreign Guests Arrive

NC1207063389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Mr Jan Sterba, Czechoslovak foreign trade minister, arrived in Tehran this morning in order to express his sympathies and attend the ceremony marking the passage of 40 days since the death of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. He was welcomed by our minister of industries, Mr Shafe'i.

Shortly after arriving in Tehran, Mr Sterba spoke briefly with our correspondent. Expressing his condolences, he said: The death of a person who opened a new chapter in history is a painful loss for all of humanity.

Also, (Mr Amin al-Ahmad), speaker of the Saharan Republic parliament and Mr (Gilandri Harond), Benin's foreign minister [title as heard] arrived in Tehran this morning to express their sympathy to the Iranian nation and to participate in the ceremony to mark the passage of 40 days since Imam Khomeyni's death. They were welcomed by Foreign Minister Mr Velayati and Majlis leadership member Mr 'Abedi.

Khamene'i Receives Mourners

LD1307082289 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Hundreds of people and officials from various parts of Iran arrived here, many on foot, Wednesday to pledge allegiance with Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and express condolences on the 40th day since the death of Imam Khomeyni.

"What the great nation of Iran has demonstrated in these forty days will be recorded for ever in history," the leader said.

"It was for Islam that hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world mourned in such fashion," he added.

The ayatollah said as long as Iranians continued to defend Islam and its values with such spirit and determination on the path of Muhammadan Islam, no foreign power would be able to stop its progress towards Islamic ideals.

"The Islam which confronts oppression and bullying and condemns plundering and corruption should expect hostility from the superpowers, America, Zionism and the corrupt leader of today's world," he said.

Khamene'i also stressed on unity among the masses and said the imam invested the entirety of his lifetime and especially the last decade of his life on that goal which was the secret to the victory of the Islamic revolution.

The 'defenders of the Persian Gulf' and various strata of the masses from the Persian Gulf port city of Bandar 'Abbas who had marched 1,234 kms to the capital, handed a signed letter of support for the leader of the Islamic Republic.

Friday prayers leader of Bandar-e 'Abbas also presented 280 pieces of gold and jewelry as contribution of the people of his city to the Muslim combatants.

Visitors also included governor generals of Fars and Hormozgan Provinces as well as members of the armed forces from Maragheh, Ghazvin, Zanjan, Tabriz, Ardabil, Abhar, Sari Kiassar [name as received], Behshahr, Fereydun Kenar, and Shahanshah of Esfahan.

Iravani Greets Syrian Delegation

LD1307085589 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—A five-member Syrian delegation led by Deputy Premier Salim Yasin and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Yasin Rajjuh arrived here Wednesday night.

They are to attend the ceremonies marking the 40th day since the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

The Syrian officials were welcomed at Mehrabad airport by Economics and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani.

Amal Radio Previews Discussions With Birri

NC0907052589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] It was announced in Damascus last night that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has left Damascus for Tehran accompanied by Minister Nabih Birri. Nabih Birri will hold talks with the Iranian leaders on the developments in the Lebanese situation, the relationship between Amal Movement and the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the relationship between Amal Movement and Hizballah in Lebanon. A Hizballah delegation has also left for Tehran.

Commentary Supports Truce

LD1207131589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The occupying Zionist regime has recently carried out two simultaneous operations outside the border region in southern lebanon. [passage omitted]

At the same time the atmosphere remains tense between the Amal and Hizballah forces. The 2-week clash of these organizations has left more than 10 dead and has inflicted some damage. Previously the leaders and responsible officials of these two Shi'ite organizations issued statements in Lebanon and Syria, condemning the clashes. The statements had also stressed that a group of traitors intend to recreate clashes; even after a meeting between the Hizballah and Amal leaders in our country's embassy in Damascus, it was agreed that a committee should be set up to investigate the cause of these clashes and to punish those responsible for starting them. Unfortunately, the understanding among the leaders could not stop the clashes among some elements.

Now that several leaders of the Lebanese Hizballah and the head of the Amal Movement have arrived in Tehran to attend the ceremonies marking the Imam's 40th day of death, and since they all have pledged allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, it would be appropriate to form a basis for multilateral talks and to reach some fundamental understanding, which would prevent further fratricide in Lebanon, and enable the Islamic and revolutionary forces to fight with greater coordination and understanding against conspiracies of the Israeli and Iraqi regimes in Lebanon.

Birri Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1207103589 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—The need for unity among Lebanese Muslims and struggle against the Zionist enemy were stressed in a meeting between a Lebanese militia leader and Majlis Speaker 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday.

Amal movement leader Nabih Birri is here at the head of a delegation to participate in the 40th day mourning ceremony for the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

Birri condoled the passing away of the Imam on behalf of all members and supporters of his movement.

He also briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the Lebanese jihad against Zionist forces and their agents.

The speaker, who is acting armed forces commander in chief, reiterated Iran's support to Lebanese Muslims in their fight against the Zionist occupiers and their agents and indicated the need for ending sectarian rule in Lebanon.

Meets With Musavi-Ardabili

LD1207193389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Movement and Lebanese minister of justice, accompanied by the members of Amal's political bureau, today met President of the Supreme Court of Justice Musavi-Ardabili.

At the meeting Nabih Birri offered his condolences on the demise of His Excellency Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sacred. He also declared his support for the exalted leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, as the legal governor of the Muslims.

He said: By relying on the glorious guidance of the imam of ummah regarding struggle against Israel, we pledge our word with that great and dear imam and great theologian [faqih] to rain down decisive and pounding blows on the body of our Zionist enemy and his domestic agents such as Michel 'Awn. We will honor our pledge to the last drop of our blood. We will make the spirit of that great man happy by effecting unity among Shi'a brothers. In so doing we also will disappoint our enemies. He added: We are children of the Islamic revolution; we will guard the revolution with all our existence.

Thanking the brothers for their participation in the ceremonies marking the 40th day of the imam's demise and also for their sympathy for Muslim nation of Iran, as well as supporting the leader of the Islamic revolution, Musavi-Ardabili reciprocated by offering his condolences to Nabih Birri and the victimized nations of Lebanon and Palestine.

The president of the Supreme Judicial Council, addressing the Islamic struggling and Islamic revolutionary groups in Lebanon, said: The first step you must take in the struggle is to achieve unity and solidarity; you must try to shelve differences and fight as brothers against your enemy, the United States and the Zionists. You should know that the Iranian people support you at all stages and stand by you in your struggle with the enemies of God and Islam.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1207131889 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—The prominent Lebanese Alim al-Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah met with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday.

Fadlallah briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the situation of Lebanese Muslims and their campaign against Zionist usurpers. He declared solidarity of Lebanese Muslims with the Islamic Republic of Iran and its leadership.

Latest developments in Lebanon, as well as issues of the region and the Islamic world were also discussed in the meeting.

Fadlallah is currently here to take part in the 40th mourning day of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni.

In related news, visiting leaders of Lebanon's Hizballah in a meeting with the Majlis speaker Wednesday reaffirmed allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Shaykh Suhi Tufayli and Hasan Nasrullah [names as received], here at the head of a delegation to attend the late imam's commemoration ceremonies, also blamed the al-Sa'ud dynasty for the July 10 bomb explosions in Mecca which claimed one life and wounded many others.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in reply, pledged Iran's full support for the struggle of Lebanese Islamic groups against Israel and its mercenaries.

Ahvaz Marchers Pledge Allegiance to Khamene'i

LD1207122889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpts] A large group of 5,000 marchers of allegiance to imam and the leadership from Khuzestan Province—comprising representatives of Islamic combatants, commanders of forces stationed on the country's southern fronts; a large group of mourning ummah, clergy, and the esteemed families of martyrs and selfless devotees; tribal representatives, the governor general, officials, and staff of the province's institutions and governmental offices—together with Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Jazayeri—the

Vali-e Faqih [jurisconsult vice regency] representative and Friday prayer leader of Ahvaz—and their eminences the Friday prayers leaders, the ministers of the holy crusade, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps as well as Majlis and Council of Experts deputies from Khuzestan province, more than 2,000 mourning sisters from the province this morning met His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and declared their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution. They were accompanied by marchers from Golpaygan comprised of clergymen, officials, and various strata of people from that town and from Dashtestan, Shabestar, and Khameneh. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the objectives of the Islamic Republic in developing the country and in implementing the Islamic strictures. He graciously stated: If we seek to develop the country by using the vast agricultural means of the country as well as through an independent industrial structure which relies on domestic talents and knowledge; and if we seek to expand the scope of research in the universities while taking public welfare deep into all villages and at the same time constantly bearing in mind the issues of morality and the full implementation of Koranic and Islamic strictures in all the country's affairs, then we must consider that the participation and faith of people are the main means for realizing such objectives.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i concluded by pointing out that unity of expression is the key to all victories and emphasizing the necessity of maintaining unity and solidarity among the people, as well as the atmosphere of affection and friendship visible all over the country.

Karrubi Urges Commemoration of Mecca 'Massacre'
LD0807161889 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The Majlis deputy speaker today called on all Muslims across the globe particularly those currently in Hejaz on this year's pilgrimage to the Ka'bah—Islam's holiest site—to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the Mecca massacre.

In his message, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi felt assured that "all Muslims either near Allah's house or anywhere else in the world, will carry out their divine duty of marking the martyrdom anniversary of the 400-plus pilgrims."

The hajj martyrs—mainly Iranian women and old men—were gunned down or killed by suffocating gases near the Ka'bah on July 31, 1987, when the Saudi police burst upon a peaceful pilgrim rally which in accordance with Islamic laws was demonstrating its antipathy towards unbelievers.

Karrubi, who led that year's blood-stained hajj caravan, reminded in his message that Iranian Muslims have been barred from performing the hajj for the second successive year, only because of holding a rally against unbelievers and calling on Muslims to close ranks against enemies of Islam, particularly "the criminal United States and the regime occupying Qods."

He said the clique ruling Hejaz, "those wicked agents of global arrogance" could not forever hope to cling to its illegitimate grip on Haramayn-e Sharifayn (holy sanctuaries in Mecca and al-Madinah) by committing such anti-Islamic crimes.

The message called on Iranian people to massively turn out as usual, for the rally in Tehran on July 10 in memory of the Mecca carnage.

Hajj is incumbent once in a lifetime on every adult Muslim who can afford the journey, but the Wahhabi clan of al-Sa'ud which seized the Hejaz in the 1930's with British help, have spared no effort to fiddle with divine laws and bar the faithful from the pilgrimage.

Calls for Trial of Mecca Bombers
LD1207132589 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Majlis vice speaker and head of Iranian Hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi on Wednesday called for identification and trial of those responsible for the July 10 bomb blasts in Mecca.

"The bomb explosions in the holy city of Mecca was another alarm to the world of Islam and 'ulema and a sound proof of Saudi rulers' incompetence to administer the holy sanctuaries," Karrubi said in a statement.

The statement said "this inhumane act was probably perpetrated by Saudi agents but that if Hijaz [Saudi] rulers want to claim otherwise they must immediately identify those responsible for the ominous blasts and put them on trial according to Islamic laws."

One person was killed and scores of others wounded when two bombs went off in Mecca Monday night. Although no groups or persons have yet claimed responsibility, Saudi and U.S. agents are believed to have been behind the explosions.

Fadlallah: Mecca Blast 'Premeditated' by U.S.
LD1207165889 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Qom, July 12, IRNA—Prominent Alim al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah of Lebanon today termed Monday night's bomb blasts in Mecca as a "pre-meditated scheme designed by the U.S. and the regime ruling Hijaz."

"This ominous plot once again unveiled the anti-Islamic nature of the Saudi clan," stressed Fadlallah, now in Iran to participate in the 40th day ceremony of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, to be held tomorrow.

He called on 'ulema and scholars throughout the Muslim world to break their silence on such barbaric acts committed by the Wahhabis and to do all within their power to uncover the Saudi rulers' ill intentions towards Islam and Muslims.

Following its July 31, 1987 slaughter of 400 guests of God in Mecca, the Saudi clan which traces its lineage to Jewish tribes, has stepped up its desecration of Islam's two most holiest places, which the British backed founder of the regime occupied in the 1930s.

Elsewhere Fadlallah said the Lebanese people saw their success in adhering to the enlightened ideals of the great ruhollah, and continuing their struggles against world arrogance and its regional lackeys the Zionist and reactionary regimes.

"We obey the orders of the new leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i," he added.

The Lebanese alim termed recent meeting in Tehran between foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and leaders of Lebanon's Islamic and nationalist groups as an end to hostilities and a "new chapter" in in relations between the groups.

Velayati Meets Afghan Rebel Leader, Urges Unity

LD1207171489 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Leader of Afghanistan's of Jamiat-e Eslami Burhanuddin Rabbani held his second round of talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today. Velayati laying stress on unity among Afghan groups advised the Muslim people of Afghanistan to close ranks and coordinate their struggle against the Marxist regime.

"We are still following the same motives and aims we had for Afghanistan," Velayati noted, in reference to Islamic Iran's stance that all mujahidin groups should be represented in any future government.

The Peshawar-based Rabbani who is here to attend the 40th day mourning cermeony for the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni (may God bless his soul), thanked Iranian officials for their deep and brotherly feelings toward mujahideen groups and the Afghan people.

"The Afghan people's friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran lasts for ever," he emphasized.

Despite the plots of eastern and western powers in Afghanistan, "we can overcome the difficulties" he said.

Afghan Mujahidin Groups Form 'Jihad Shura'

LD0207092189 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—Four independent Afghan groups and the eight-party coalition of Afghan mujahideen based in Tehran have announced the formation of a Jihad Shura (Council).

The independent groups include leader of the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, leader of Islamic Solidarity Qazi Muhammad Amin Vafadar, leader of Islamic Revolution Movement Musavi Rafi'allah Mo'azen and representative of the Islamic Unity Council in Tehran Nadali Mahdavi.

In a joint statement, the Shura members vowed to continue their jihad until the fall of the subservient regime in Kabul.

They called for the establishment of an Islamic, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan and rejected intervention of foreign powers under the guise of solving the Afghan issue.

At the same time the Shura approved any effort which did not contradict their Islamic goals and which could serve as a ground for establishment of free and Islamic government in Kabul.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Tehran Sunday to hold talks with Iranian officials on the Afghan issue and to be briefed on the results of Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday Prayers Sermon 30 Jun

LD3006205689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] There are various events I have to talk about and also as usual I will give a report on the visit I had as your representative to our neighboring country. I have made the first sermon short and I will try not to make the second sermon too long, due to the warm weather and the massing of the crowd. [passage omitted]

Another issue that has come up that I must raise is what is happening at our borders. The Iraqis are evacuating around 30 kms of their borders with us and with Turkey and they are transferring towns, villages, and the tribes of the region to some unidentified place. These poor people. This is a great crime that is taking place and we hope that the world keeps the Iraqi Ba'thists from committing such oppression. This is a great oppression. In these outskirts there are many towns, a lot of villages.

Thirty kilometres around the border is not something marginal. There are around 1,700 to 1,800 kms of border. Multiply this by 30 and see what happens.

Most of these border regions are cultivated areas and the people have been living in these pastures of land with the rivers from Iran and Turkey running into Iraq. One example we have seen is in Halabjah as the gentlemen who visited Halabjah saw, or as you saw on television, Halabjah heights are similar to the Alborz Heights in Iran, in the southern pastures of Alborz.

Halabjah fields are very cultivated, as you have seen. Both the lower and upper regions are cultivated, and this could happen to towns like Taleqan, Naft Khaneh, (Robatieh), Maydan and a lot of towns in these outskirts, including Basra. Now we do not know if this policy is right, but why do they not touch Basra? Basra is in the area covered, 30 kms from al-Faw. What do they want to do?

This oppression must be stopped. The Iraqis must be prevented from doing this. Even during the war we did not evacuate people from border villages, though the enemy kept going there, taking arms and money from the people. We were not prepared to commit such an inhumane act as evacuate these poor people from these places. These migrations are very hard on them. People are dependent on their water, their springs, their lands, the area there. They belong there. That is their home. They have buried their dead there. They have national and family memories there. They are simply taking a group of people from one area to another. It is not possible to take them to other towns, they take them to deserts in west or southwest Iraq or any other place they want.

This is a very burdensome thing that is taking place, an irreparable oppression. Of course the world is used to compromises against the ones that listen to them and obey them. [sentence as heard] We are really sorry for the Kurds and the Arabs that such oppression is taking place and they are suffering, being made to leave their homes and lives. We hope that the total world reaction will stop this oppression and crime.

Another thing I feel obliged to do is sincerely thank our own people, and all Muslims throughout the world, in connection with the mourning ceremonies after the demise of his eminence, the imam of the ummah, the founder of the Islamic republic, as well as for their obedience and pledges of allegiance to the new leadership, which are major historical events. [repetitive passage omitted] Today, in the course of the 10 postrevolution years, there has never been such a period where our enemies have been so despondent about their future. [chants]

The unity and unamity we witness among the country's intellectual currents, and the solidarity among the country's officials and dignitaries at the loss of the imam could not have occurred without divine will. [repetitive passage omitted] Such could not have occurred as a natural phenomenon. [passage omitted] Do not allow our enemies to infiltrate our country through deviant paths and break up this unity and solidarity, which are divine bounties.

There is an important point I should mention here. We have been very impressed by the affection and devotion displayed by those outside the country during this period. For example, what we saw in Pakistan in this period was practically the same as the period of mourning in Iran, and it still is. When Dr Velayati went to Pakistan, he saw that in the streets 70, 80, or even 90 percent of the cars were displaying black flags. In Iran, we did not have this to such a degree.

Not that our people were not in a state of mourning. No! Our people mourned. The same goes for Kashmir, India, Lebanon, even in places such as Saudi Arabia where there are very austere measures against Muslims. Such was the situation in the east of Arabia. It was the same in the countries south of the Persian Gulf. In Morocco, the people endured martyrdom because their government would not allow them to conduct mourning ceremonies. In Baku, which is a country behind the Iron Curtain, where we had never had propaganda machinery; I went there and saw the people and the mosques. The people were dressed in black. It was impossible to mention the imam's name. When on one occasion I mentioned the imam's tomb, the people became charged with uncontrollable emotion and tears rolled down their eyes like the juice of a split pomegranate. It left me speechless. My entourage was shaken. You have only just started chanting slogans of obedience to the new leader, yet when we were there we heard the people shouting: Obedience to Khamene'i is obedience to the imam! [passage omitted]

There is a question which we have been asked incessantly to an embarrassing degree and which we should solve. It is why do you refer to the leadership following the imam as the leader of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We do not accept this—or so foreigners tell us. They say: What are we going to do then? Do you mean that we should be without a leader? Some interpret this as deviation from the imam's path. They claim that the imam did not want his revolution for Iran but for outside Iran: Why should he be considered the leader of Iran and not our leader? This is a valid point. We... [changes thought] There is a point which we should specify to them: There are a string of titles which we should preserve as exclusive to the imam. The imam, should have his own exclusive titles, in this revolution, in the future, and for ever. One of these titles is the word imam. We do not intend to use imam of the ummah for our present or future leaders. The founder of the Islamic revolution is among the titles exclusive to his eminence the imam. He graciously founded this revolution, and it is exclusive to him. The debate is on the word leader

[rahbar]. Whether leader of the revolution, should be exclusive to his eminence the imam, or whether we can refer to our leader today and in the future as leader of the revolution.

It is on this point that we differ with Muslims outside the country. From the beginning we did not want to use this word. Now they are complaining to us, saying that we should use this name. Here, our literati should help us. We can not deprive Muslims outside the country who have been supporting the revolution in many ways—and this Islamic revolution is for all—of a title which enables them to feel related to this revolution and the leadership of the revolution. I think that the choice should be made by the literati. Perhaps, in respect to the imam, he sould be named the great leader of the revolution or the father of the revolution, so as to enable us to use the term leader of the revolution for our new leader, his eminence the Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants slogans in support of Khamene'i]. And if there are any other ways by which we could please Muslims outside the country, they should be put forward.

Now, regarding our trip [to the USSR] and its ensuing effects for the region and the two countries. I have a report here which I will relate to our dear nation. I can not discuss it in detail, since we are short of time. The main thing is that this is an important issue for us—and not only us: For us, for the Soviets themselves, for the region, and for the world. Moreover, the event which has occurred is considered unprecedented in the history of Iran-Soviet relations. I mean, such an event had not occurred before, and the groundwork for such did not exist. For the first time such groundwork was laid, and I will explain these bases. In the past, because the USSR was a large country and Iran was normally a smaller one with great credibility and value, the Russians generally regarded Iran with ill intentions. In the Tsarist period, they competed with the English and the West over Iranian sovereignty. In the wake of the Communist revolution, as well, good relations did not exist due to intellectual differences between the two countries. [passage omitted] Inside Iran, the prevailing conditions did not allow Iran to have close relations with the Soviet Union, since Iran in past decades was under the influence of the West who would not allow such a thing. I mean, that Iranian Government was unable to make decisions, and the Soviet Union lacked the spirit of treating Iran on an equal footing—as an independent and free country. Hence, these two countries were constantly in opposition to each other. After the revolution, this trend continued.

After the revolution, it remained so. At the beginning of the revolution, the Soviets supported the leftists in Iran, which was an obstacle to friendship. Soon afterwards they occupied Afghanistan. We were not prepared to accept the occupation of Afghanistan at any price. We felt Afghanistan was moving toward warm waters, from a geographical point of view. We recognize Afghanistan as an Islamic country, even if it were non-Islamic, we would still not allow such oppression. This was a great obstacle. These obstacles caused the Soviets to support Iraq in the Iraq problem, therefore, our relations with the Soviets remained gloomy. Recentlyly, the situation has changed. And that change took place in Russia, not in Iran. Iran is going its way and will continue to do so. Russia removed these obstacles. First, it evacuated Afghanistan, which was our first demand. And, second, it decreased support for the leftist and Marxist trends [in Iran]. The global homeland thesis which ruled before Gorbachev as removed from Marxist thesis. In fact international Marxism became empty. The idea of being the big brother to the neighbors was sent out of Kremlin Palace. They were prepared to have friendly relations with their neighbors, and they were prepared to give away the points which they had gained in the past for themselves.

Also within the Soviet Union, they removed pressures from the people. The religions under pressure experienced freedom. The people... [changes thought] Of course, it is still the beginning; they have far to go to reach the end. The people felt some kind of relaxation. This was one of our problems in the past.

This combination prepared the grounds for a new situation for Iran with its northern neighbor. Luckily this took place during the imam's time. If this would have happened after the imam, it would have been difficult for us, because some would say the No East, No West thesis would be breached.

A long time ago, when Gorbachev's new move began, his eminence the imam paid attention to the issue, and the heads of the three powers talked in his presence and it was decided that the Foreign Ministry should prepare the strategy for our future relations with the Soviet Union. The Foreign Ministry prepared it, we gave our opinion, then took it to the imam, who accepted it. The strategy for our relations with the northern neighbor was prepared and arranged long time ago, and it was afterwards that his eminence wrote that letter [to Gorbachev]. Of course that letter was one the imam's personal initiatives. None of us prepared the grounds for that. We were informed only that his eminence was going to write a letter. Then the letter was sent via Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Aqa to our meeting for our comment. The decision was made by him, and at the end he wrote what he wanted. If these issues were not there, there would have been talks. Now, after the letter what happened? His eminence received the Soviet foreign minister, when he was not prepared to accept any other foreign minister. This is firm proof that his eminence the imam created the path. And when my visit was to be discussed, because of the situation, I went to him and said the visit is becoming serious. Do you agree with it? He said: Yes, I am in agreement. Go and make your relations friendly. These were the the exact words of the imam himself, and he followed the matter himself and prepared the grounds himself. And, fortunately, a correct picture of our No East, No West thesis was formed so that the satans later

on don't criticize our society by saying that the No East, No West line had been broken. During the time of the imam—of course, we never took the details to the imam—most of the agreement that we were preparing was discussed with the imam. These were the talks we had with the Russians. They were defined to us and it was clear that we were following the path with his positive opinion.

Now what has taken place. It is a very important issue, if really with the spirit that we saw in Kremlin Palace in the Soviet leaders it is agreed that as two free countries with no expectations from one another and without anything else but relations in the interests of the two nations in charge of our relations, we follow this with such a spirit. Thus security will be created in the region and in the midst of this security a lot of this region's interests, which are being plundered and because of the insecure situation a lot of thieves from all over come and plunder and rule in the region, we can correct this all. And that was why the West was so frightened. Up until now, such a thing had not taken place in our history. This is the first time that Europe has paid attention to this region in the past few hundred years. This is what is happening here. Not only for us; it is the same for Russia and our neighboring countries; if only this policy continues.

Regarding the contract [with the Soviet Union], we have signed generalities. Each contract is signed by the relevant minister. For example, the minister of energy signs the dams contracts, the minister of roads signs the rail system contracts, the minister of commerce signs commercial contracts, and then through legal channels they come to the Majlis for approval. They go through their normal routes.

We went to draft the generalities—the program for our relations until the year 2000. Our signatures were general. The issues considered are significant for both countries. It is not as though we can claim that the Russians gave us concessions or that we gave them concessions. For instance, the Caspian Sea—if we cooperate—can supply both countries with large incomes. We have great quantities of oil in the Caspian Sea which should be exploited, and we can do so with help of the Russians, since the transfer of heavy equipment to the sea without Russian help is a difficult task. Shipping in the Caspian Sea is important to us, and it is made possible by Soviet cooperation. Either it should use its domestic waters to bring ships, or we could purchase ships from them, or alternatively we could construct a shipbuilding industry, which is what we are currently doing.

And other issues: The preservation of the sea itself, the preservation of the level of water, the preservation of the environment are among the issues which should be dealt with. The border rivers—there are many valuable rivers on nearly all our borders with the USSR, and the majority of them are currently subsiding. Starting with Afghanistan, there is the Harirud which terminates in the Caspian, which is on the verge of subsiding, next to which there are the fertile lands of the Sarakhs region. This section of Khorasan is on the verge of dissolution, and hundreds of kilometers of this road is flowing into the river, it is being wasted while the valuable surrounding land is just lying there. The Arak River flows from the Turkish border until it reaches the Caspian Sea, and we have only a small dam there which cultivates Dasht-e Moghan. Those gentlemen who have been there know that the small dam has turned that place into a paradise. We have signed four dam agreements with the Soviets so that they come and construct these dams. We will be partners—we should provide electricity, and the water should be fairly divided between us. This is extremely valuable to both countries. Neither will we owe the Russians any favours nor they us. Their dam-building ability, however, is greater than ours. They have harnessed practically all their country's waters. They have extensive reserves for construction of dams: They have cement, metal rods, and expertise, while we have only just begun in the period after the revolution to bring our dam constructing ability to an acceptable level. We are far behind in our country in terms of dam construction. Karun—those extensive lengths of 2000-3000 meters before reaching the sea, in which great electricity-generating potentials lie dormant and which has been wasted for millions of years—its current could provide us with 7 to 8,000 MW of electricity. Seven to 8,000 MW, is tantamount to all the electricity currently being used in our country. These are all subsiding. If all these waters were harnessed, and all the seasonal waters which flow into the sea were accumulated, then we would be able to supply the entire Khuzestan with water in the appropriate seasons. [passage omitted]

If we manage to harness the waters which flow from the Zagros toward the south and the north, and exploit their electricity generating power, then we would manage to guarantee the electricity supply of the country, permanently. We have given part of this task to the Soviets, which is that they should provide around 4 to 5,000 megawatts by constructing two or three dams on the Karun River. This does not make us indebted to them or vice-versa. They have the expertise, the cement, metal rods, and the capabilities which they use for implementation, while we employ our capabilities elsewhere. Moreover, there are tasks which we can carry out ourselves, which means that they should employ us while carrying out the task: our industries, factories, and technicians, should cooperate with them.

The series of projects in our agreements are of immense value. The rail system agreement is amongst the most significant agreements. We have agreed to connect Mashhad to (?Tajar). We have a line that ends at Sarakhs, and they can come from [word indistinct] to Sarakhs and connect with this line. Once this line is connected, then we would be able to connect our country to China. The Soviet railways go as far as China, and we have many commercial deals. At present all merchandise imported from China by rail is brought to Jolfa and sent

back from Jolfa. We have to travel thousands of miles extra, pay transit charges, and incur delays, while from here the road becomes closer.

In this respect, enemies play malicious tricks, saying that this is an ancient Russian colonialist ploy, building relations with the warm waters. This is hyperbole. If it wanted to gain control over us through the train system, it would have done so before, since the previous regime the Soviet Union has been connected to the south of our country via Jolfa. This is nothing new. It is only difficult for us to circle around the Soviet Union and reach China. Once this road is opened, the Russians will pay us a transit charge for merchandise which they carry to and from the south, and we will pay a transit charge for the merchandise which we pass through theirs. This is significant both from a commercial point of view, and that of the delivery of merchandise on time. This is a significant task which is being carried out, and the mischief which they are doing is very wrong. In fact it has the opposite effect, since it becomes a weapon in our hand. Our possession of a rail network will enable us to use it as a weapon—of course we do not wish to do so. This is a complicated situation for the country across which the line passes. A weak point for countries is when their lines cross through other countries. In special circumstances, these lines are closed, causing obstacles.

This is the opening for us of new roads to Europe, through the Russians, via the Black Sea on ships, through the use of their waterways to reach the North Sea and the western seas. This is very valuable to us and also for the Russians since they are using our transit facilities. This is a very valuable cooperation between the two countries, which is currently taking place.

Regarding steel and the Esferayan project, it is a very massive project, under discussion before the revolution but never materialized. It is a huge casting project in the expansion of the Esfahan steel mill, which was supposed to have been completed, and we are trying to reach the previous level. There are also other minor things, such as some generators which they should expand. Incidentally, these are issues in which Russian techniques are superior to those of the West. In dam construction, the Russians are ahead of the West, and they do the work at a cheaper rate. In the field of water generators, the Russians are ahead of the rest of the world and also cheaper. With such potential, the choice has been one which serves the people.

We have border trade, which is among the very agreeable things, from five of our provinces: Khorasan, Gilan, Masanderan, east and West Azarbayjan; on the other side of which are all Muslims. This is a good development in respect to people's living standards. It is mutually beneficial. Our contacts with Soviet Muslims can also prove to be beneficial, because we are more familiar with Islam, and they will become more familiar with Islam through such contacts. This is to the advantage of the Muslims.

On the whole, I believe that through his eminence the imam's insight and the efforts of the Foreign Ministry, specificaly our embassy in Moscow, along with the efforts by the Soviet leadership to prepare the correct groundwork and its adoption of a correct stance in the region—the importance of which comes from the Persian Gulf, in safeguarding of the interests of the region, as well as the cooperation which we are to provide, in order to cut the hands of the outsiders, from the Persian Gulf and to make it a civilian zone—through all this and the government's efforts, the cabinet on the whole or the relevent ministers, working very hard during this period, drew up some good projects. We are on the threshold of a decade of reconstruction, and we are about to—god willing—approve and begin our 5-year plan. In such a situation, the agreements which we reached there can be beneficial to the future of the country. Naturally, we will see the results of these projects in the years to come. God willing, we and the Soviet officials will be able to serve our nations, with goodwill and without any ulterior motives toward our two countries.

In addition, I am very grateful to you all for your perspicacity, for having eliminated the slogan: Death to the Soviet Union, the moment you became aware of the change in relations. I noticed this when I returned from my trip, and it is a wise choice, because at this level of relations which we have, it is pointless to chant such slogans. This belongs to, and for the nasty things which they engaged in, in the past. [passage omitted]

Tehran TV Comments on Election Campaign Plans

NC0707202589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1624 GMT 7 Jul 89

[From the "Weekly Report"]

[Text] With the commencement of the election campaign, another experience will have been put behind us as a new test faces the Muslim Iranian people. The presidential elections on 28 July will initiate a new chapter in the economic, political, and social life of Iran.

The constitutional amendments relating to the executive branch place the executive management in the hands of the president. The powers envisioned for the future president render him the chief executive official of the country. These powers, while resulting in the desired centralization of the country's executive affairs, will also raise the level of the people's expectations. The Islamic Republic has always and in all circumstances relied on its people, as it is a popular and divine system. This reliance has been the key to the resolution of difficulties by the officials of society at sensitive and critical junctures.

As our present-day society undergoes political and economic changes, as in the past, we should put the various issues, and ideas for their solution, before the people and thus facilitate the growth and development of awareness which will pave the way for correct action in society in

general. The presentation of specific and precise plans, various viewpoints and methods, as well as clear political, economic, cultural, and social programs, should be clearly propounded by the presidential candidates during the election campaign. The people will vote for those programs, policies, objectives, and measures which the president has in mind for implementation in various fields.

Undoubtedly, our society today is confronted with difficulties stemming from the problems caused by a decade of war and aggression by world oppression. Rebuilding after this devastation and getting the wheels of the country turning again for the correct utilization of natural resources, manpower, and other potentials for growth and development need a specific and detailed plan. A plan dealing with the general problems and issues which are a corollary of an unhealthy and anomalous kind of economy should be very clear and specific. The high prices of certain commodities in special circumstances are undoubtedly the result of a series of unhealthy economic conditions which place intense pressure on the middle and lower strata of society. If healthy conditions are to be brought back, there must be planning and an enlightened perspective.

Iran's revolutionary society endures these tribulations because of the high level of its beliefs, but this endurance should not be a pretext for justifying the continuation of these pressures. If we keep this in mind, then the elimination of such problems by planning and following a lucid and calculated policy will not be a difficult task. Without doubt, in other fields pertaining to society's growth and development there is a need for definite planning and a clear pattern of action. In the past few years, despite the war, important measures have been taken. However, because of changes in the present circumstances, the most important thing is cohesive action in this regard. This matter has definite implications which can be generalized thus: Without doubt, a fundamental and correct economic policy requires well-formulated programs in social and cultural fields as well as in the political field.

If the people are kept informed of such decisions and planning, they will certainly enter the arena with the full solidarity that is desired. The vote that they will give the president will not be a vote for an individual but for all the programs, objectives, and specific and clear issues which have been set out with the knowledge and concomitant support and solidarity of the people.

Articles on Selecting Leader Approved, Amended

LD0207094789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] At today's morning and afternoon sessions of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, a debate continued on the report by the first subcommittee on the leader and the experts of the leadership [khobregan-e rahbari], which was submitted at the second sitting. Following an account of the proposals and speeches by those for and against the articles, these articles were approved.

1. Article 107: Following the [demise of] the exalted source of emulation, the great leader of the global Islamic revolution, and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran—His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified—who was elected and acknowledged by the decisive majority of people as a source of emulation and as the leader, the appointment of a leader is the responsibility of the people's chosen experts.

The experts of the leadership will review and confer on all the religious experts [fuqaha] who possess the requirements listed in Articles 5 and 109. Whenver they recognize one of them as being the most versed in the religious jurisprudence and issues, or political and social issues, or enjoying general consensus, or having a specific distinction in one of the attributes listed in Article 109, they will select him as the leader. They will select that person as a leader and announce it. The leader chosen by the experts will shoulder the responsibility of the guardianship of the Islamic ummah [velayat-e amr] and all the responsibilites attached to it.

With respect to the instructions given by his eminence the imam of the ummah, may his noble soul be sanctified, general amendments have been made to this article.

2. Article 108: The law pertaining to the number and requirements of the experts, the nature of the elections, and the internal regulations of their sessions should be compiled by the religious experts of the first Council of the Guardians and approved by a majority of votes at the first round. It should then be passed on to the leader of the revolution for final approval. From there on, any amendments or changes of opinions in this law and the sanctioning of other regulations regarding the duties of the experts is left at their own discretion.

At the end of this article, the sentence, "the sanctioning of other regulations regarding the experts,' has been added.

3. Article 109: The conditions and qualities which should be possessed by the leader:

A. The necessary academic competency (?to interpret) various religious matters.

B. A necessary sense of piety and justice as the leader the Islamic ummah.

C. The correct political and social insight, expediency, courage, and sufficient managerial ability for leadership.

In the case of multiplicity of those who possess these requirements, the one who has the more potent religious and political insight.

Constitution Reappraisal Council Meets 8 Jul

LD0807194189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] During today's 38th general session of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution, the debate on the report of the first commission concerning the Assembly for the Discernment of What Is Best continued, and the following article was approved, (?endorsing) the previous ratified article on the combination of members of the Assembly for the Discernment of What Is Best. On the basis of this article, the assembly is formed by a decree of the leader in order to discern expediency in affairs on which the Islamic Majlis and the Guardian Council fail to reach agreement after going through the legal procedure; to hold consultation on the affairs referred to them by the leader; and other duties mentioned in this law. The leader appoints the permanent and changing members of the assembly. The members themselves prepare and approve the regulations of the assembly, which will be passed to the leader for endorsement.

Thanks to the ratification of the above article, the task of reviewing and approving all the articles His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his lofty dust be sanctified—assigned to the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution, is completed.

Also in this session, the final version of the 5th, 57th, 60th, 64th, 69th, 70th and 85th articles were read and approved by the council members. A full report will be brought to the attention of the public, together with a report on tomorrow's session of the commission [as heard].

7 More Articles Approved

LD1007231289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] During the 40th general session of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, held this evening, the 57th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, and 112th articles received final approval. It is necessary to add that these articles will be brought to the attention of the public after final ratification by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution.

Council Approves Articles, Titles

LD1207223489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The 41st general assembly of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution of Iran and this council's final session was held on Tuesday [11 July] afternoon under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Meshkini.

During this session the reappraisal council gave its report and presented the approved articles.

According to the IRNA report, Articles 121, 128, 140, 141, 142, 157, 158, 160, 161, 162, 164, 173, 174, 175, 176, and 157 [number as heard] received final approval, and the title of "12th Line of the Media" [rasane haye goruhi] was changed to "Line 12, Voice and Vision" [Iranian radio and television] and the title in the 13th line "The High Council for National Security," preceding Article 176, and the fourth text "the reappraisal of the Constitution," preceding Article 177, were approved. The reappraisal of the Constitution thus ended with the final approval of all articles. [passage omitted]

* Authorities Comment on Leadership Issues

Azari-Qomi's Comments

46400091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Jun 89 p 11

[Interview with Ayatollah Azari-Qomi on Leadership Issues]

[Text] News Department—Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, a member of the Assembly of Experts dealing with leadership issues and member of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, was asked: Some people are sowing doubts by saying that the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i must be confirmed by sources of emulation or someone the people recognize as a highly learned person. To what degree is this correct?

He made the following comments: The selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i was made in accordance with the Constitution, which takes its legality from the great jurist consult His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Emam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution. The religious legality of the Constitution, which is in reality the commands of the former jurist consult, has been secured. These commands are also in force after him, because it is well known that the commands of the jurist consult remain in force on their own. These are not authorizations, commitments or permissions which disappear with the death of the former leader.

He said: The principles pertaining to leadership and the right to designate the nation's experts have taken their religious legality from the former jurist consult. The newly elected leader by the experts is the grantor of legality to our government, whether he is "elected" by a source of emulation or not.

Continuing his remarks he said: If we say that the Constitution calls for a source of emulation as condition for leadership, we must say yes. However, not every source of emulation would qualify. He must be a source of emulation who can manage the country and also deal with domestic and foreign conspirators' tricks and plots.

Thus, it must be concluded that a source of emulation without leadership qualifications, is not within the parameters of the constitution.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi said: As I said before, this issue aside, what is written in the the Constitution does not require an actual source of emulation. If it be said that this is a source of emulation who must explain what is authorized and what is not, we answer that this is only correct when another jurist consult or jurist consults have not ruled on the subject. Our assumption is that the Constitution is the command of the previous jurist consult, and not merely a religious decree.

He said: There is no doubt that a high and significant percentage of prominent jurist consults, some of whom are clearly persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, are on the Assembly of Experts. They have endorsed the new leader. Throughout the history of the source of emulation, appointments have been made by just such jurist consults.

The member of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council said: Most importantly, the experts are the true representatives of the people, and this selection is in reality the selection of the people.

If one says that the chief jurist consult does not need to be selected by the Assembly of Experts, we say yes that is true. However, this is only true when a jurist consult has leadership qualifications. On the other hand, if we have several equally qualified persons in education and management, is it possible to designate one of them except through selection and in reality by the affirmation of the people?

In the accepted tradition narrated by 'Omar ibn Hanzalah it says that the right to select the governor (the chief jurist consult, not the judge) is given to the people. Imam Sadeq (Peace Be upon Him) says: I have made him governor (jurist consult), you also elect him as governor. Thus both theological expertise and election by the people are required. Ultimately the evidence must be identified by the Assembly of Experts and their testimony must be given, even if we have problems with the guidance of the traditions.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi said: It is true that the qualifications for leadership do not include guidance in carrying out matters. Thus a leader without the qualifications for leadership can still manage matters with the help of others, but we say that the minimum requirement for leadership credibility is that he knows qualified and competent managers. At the present time we say clearly that some of our jurist consults do not even have much management capability. They are not successful in dealing with this false and deceptive world.

The member of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council said: In short, the clear difference between the chaste Imam and the just and competent jurist consult who has in general been appointed by the great vice-regent of God is that in the first case, meaning the case of the chaste and clearly designated Imam, he is the vice-regent and is authorized whether the people declare allegiance to him or not. In other words it is incumbent upon the people to declare allegiance to him and obey his commands.

The second case, however, has a theoretical quality which is this very selection and declaration of allegiance or identification of proof by the experts. In other words, only the one with qualifications for leadership has the competence for election and vice-regency, not the one with actual vice-regency and authority! Unless, with God's permission, there is only one fully-qualified jurist consult. In this case we may say that this person has actual vice-regency and the people and the experts must declare allegiance to him. It is incumbent on that unique jurist consult to accept this position and not refuse it.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi added: Our dear Imam, in a letter to the chief of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council, says: We cannot leave our Islamic nation without a supervisor. Forty days before his death, His Eminence recognized the conditions for source of emulation and leadership in lack of supervision, which is condemned by logic and religious law. "Use will be made of those who lack the qualification of source of emulation [not legible] and now and in the very near future there is no source of emulation who is a competent administrator and aware of the times who has the ability to lead the nation in this storm of events and plots."

Therefore, the Assembly of Experts carried out the orders issued in his will by the chief jurist consult and the founder of the Islamic Republic, as well as the dictates of reason and religious law. They therefore elected Ayatollah Khamene'i.

He said: May God give a good reward to the jurist consults and clergymen of the Assembly of Experts, who have reached such a good and divine vote which is also pleasing to God.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, who is a member of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council, said: If someone says that the orders of the leader of the Islamic Republic are incumbent upon all the nation, even the great sources of emulation of Islam, that they are a higher authority than the orders of their own sources of emulation and that they must be affirmed because of the position of leadership, they are not wrong, because being a source of emulation for religious decrees is also one of the social matters within the authority of the chief jurist consult. If someone's activities as source of emulation becomes the cause of evil, it is the leadership of the Islamic Republic that must prevent him from issuing religious decrees and prevent the people from emulating him, using justifications in religious law, as was done with Mr Shari'atmadari and approved by His Holiness the Imam.

The chief jurist consult must protect Islam and the Muslims and remove obstacles from the way of Islam and the Muslims. As our great leader His Holiness

Emam Khomeyni (Peace Be upon Him) said, he may even temporarily suspend the principles and details of Islam when they are against Islamic interests, whether the principle be prayer and fasting or emulation of a learned man.

Ayatollah Azari said: Unfortunately, the perspective that has been created for our brothers in the faith and even for our dear clergy is against this. This perspective says that the one who solves our religious problems is the one who is most learned in theology, even if he does not have leadership competence.

To clarify this important topic, Ayatollah Azari said: The commander of the faithful (Peace Be upon Him) regarded the first duty of the leader of the Muslims as communicating through sermons. That is, he must strive to give advice and guidance to the people. An important part of that is issuing religious decrees and explaining what is allowed and what is forbidden by God. Clearly, he cannot carry out this heavy responsibility alone at all levels. It is necessary that people take on this task as learned men and scholars. In other words, the responsibility for guiding the people is that of the leader of the Muslims and he must supervise its proper implementation. Thus if a jurist consult or preacher says things that are against the interests of Islam and the Muslims, the leader can stop him.

Ayatollah Azari said: To put it more clearly, it is true that the source of emulation must specify what is allowed and what is not allowed for everything, even the government, and this is exactly the way it is now. That is, the question of who determines the principle of the vice-regency of the chief jurist consult, his absolute rule, the correctness or invalidity of that, the permissibility of the selection of a person by the Assembly of Experts as leader, whether he must be a source of emulation or whether it is not necessary, whether he should be a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence or not, whether there should be a majority vote of three-fifths or four-fifths, all of these things are specified by the source of emulation. Likewise, the matter of continuing the emulation of a deceased person, whether he be a learned person or not, all of these things are specified by a living and learned person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence.

If he issues a religious decree authorizing or requiring continued emulation or authorizing the emulation of a non-learned person, at that time the continuation of emulation of the deceased is either required or authorized. Likewise, the questions of whether one may emulate a person without the status of high learning or the principle of authorization to emulate someone other than the chaste imam must be answered by the most learned persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence of our time. Thus, if the most learned person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence of our time issues a religious decree emphatically denying authorization to emulate anyone, even himself, we cannot emulate anyone and we must act with caution.

However, all of these things are correct when we do not have a stronger reason to oppose the religious decrees of the most learned person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence of our time, such as when authorization to emulate has been declared necessary by a consensus of clergymen. In this case we would disregard his religious decree forbidding emulation. Likewise, we would disregard the religious decrees of the most learned person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence of our time if we already had a decree opposing it from a highly learned person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence or even from one who is not highly learned. What we are saying is that with regard to the principle of the Assembly of Experts and the method of appointment and the requirements for the elected person, we have the command of the chief jurist consult and the founder of the Islamic Republic His Holiness the Imam, may his grave be sanctified, and that command takes precedence over the religious decrees of the most learned man of our time. There is no doubt about this. Of course, it is possible that someone may not accept the idea of vice-regency of the chief jurist consult at all, and gives no value to the current and future commands of the chief jurist consult, but this is in opposition to the principle that has been clear and accepted by the jurist consults of our time and nation. It is possible that some intellectuals will misuse and put the source of emulation in the second rank of importance, when we are using the concept of source of emulation to put the orders of the leader above those of others. Theological credibility in the vice-regency of the chief jurist consult is another reason for the importance of the source of emulation and its priority over the leadership.

Lankarani's Comments

46400091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
12 Jun 89 p 2

[Interview with Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani on Leadership Issues]

[Text] News Department—Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani, secretary of the Qom Seminary Management Council and one of the seminary's great professors of external learning, had an interview with our correspondent in which he expressed his views concerning the new leadership and the matter of continued emulation of a deceased person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence.

He was asked for his views concerning the ethical and academic characteristics and attributes of Ayatollah Khamene'i. He said: As a person who is both a member

of the Assembly of Experts and acquainted with Ayatollah Khamene'i, I say that he is both knowledgeable and a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence.

Ayatollah Fazel discussed his long-standing friendship with the new leader. He said: Twenty years ago when I met him in Mashhad at the Gowharshad Mosque, he was one of the respected teachers of Mashhad. I asked him what he taught, and he answered: I teach "persuasion."

He added: Persuasion is one of the most important and difficult of our academic studies. In my opinion he is a jurist consult and a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence.

Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani said: In addition to this, we have another proof of his standing as a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, and that is the view of the blessed person of His Holiness the Imam of the nation. There is therefore no hesitation in this matter for me, and Ayatollah Khamene'i lacks nothing with regard to his independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and theological knowledge.

The member of the Teachers' Society fo Qom Theological Seminary discussed Ayatollah Khamene'i's record of struggle and his political competence. He said: From the beginning of his struggles he was beside the Imam. In reality, he studied in the Imam of the nation's political school and is a protege of the Imam's political school.

Someone who has had a teacher like the Imam of the nation for many years in the world of politics and who himself has immense talents, has a high degree of political understanding.

He added: His eight years of service in the presidency is strong testimony to this, and the trips he has made abroad as a political leader on the diplomatic arenas of the world are luminous.

Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani was asked: Some people sow doubts saying that [not legible] In your view, to what extent can this be true?

The member of the Assembly of Experts answered: At the auspicious meeting in Qom held by the Qom Seminary Management Council, attended by a great many clergymen, jurist consults, scholars, along with our heroic people, I stated that for several reasons this claim is false, and gave evidence.

First, if we are talking about a just person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence whom the nation's experts have accepted with a high vote as the vice regent of the Muslims, there is no need for someone else to confirm and appoint him.

He added: Even granting the objection, there are more than ten persons who clearly have independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence on the Assembly of Experts, who have reached the peak of learning. These persons, who clearly have independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence on the Assembly of Experts, have confirmed and appointed Ayatollah Khamene'i to his position.

Ayatollah Fazel was asked whether the government commands issued by him are binding on the jurist consults and sources of emulation. He said: It is natural that everyone is religiously and legally required to obey the commands of a person who has assumed the position of vice regent for the Muslims. If, God forbid, there were talk of war and he ordered it, everyone would have to participate in the war, with no distinction between people who have independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and the general population.

As a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, he was asked his views on the continued emulation of a deceased person, and whether those emulating the Imam could continue their emulation. He said: Almost all of the current jurist consults consider this permissible. I myself have discussed this matter and have written my views on this as a footnote. My idea is that it is permissible to continue the emulation of a deceased person, whether on matters he has acted upon or on those he has not acted upon, whether on issues he has learned or on those he has not learned.

With regard to His Holiness the Imam and whether the "deceased" was highly learned, it is my view that it is compulsory to continue emulation of him.

Ayatollah Fazel concluded by mentioning the presence of millions from the heroic nation of Iran and the Muslims of the world to mourn the great leader of the Islamic revolution. He said: This turnout is the greatest stability and security for the revolution and shows the continuation of the sacred Islamic movement. The speed in the selection of the new leader has ruined all the plans of the enemies of Islam.

Majlis Deputy's Resignation Draws Criticism

NC0707172089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Tehran—Deputy 'Abdol Majid Shar'pasand drew widescale criticism from his colleagues when he presented an account of his reasons for resignation from the legislative body.

Shar'pasand, deputy from Karaj, who is famous for his extreme radical views, addressing the Majlis yesterday said, "I'm extremely concerned over the future of the country and the concentration of power in the hands of a certain group, and a mere ceremonial presence of the masses on the political scene worries me."

He also said that he was resigning because the present government does not have any similarity or resemblance with the justice of 'Ali (AS) [God's peace be upon him].

Sharpasand's speech drew a harsh criticism from other deputies in yesterday's session of the Majlis chaired by Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Commenting on his speech one Majlis deputy said, "His (Shar'pasand's) views and reasons are based on narrow-mindedness and the Majlis deputy only wanted to popularize his own personality."

It is believed that Shar'pasand's resignation will be discussed by the Majlis and will be accepted with great majority. The date for the discussion of the resignation has not been fixed up as yet.

Majlis Accepts Karaj Deputy's Resignation

LD0907135189 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—The Majlis today accepted the resignation of a deputy from Karaj (30 kms east of here), 'Abdol Majid Shar'pasand with 187 votes in favor and two abstentions.

No deputy spoke in support of the resignation, since Shar'pasand's resignation faced no objection.

"Acceptance of the resignation does not mean that the Majlis has accepted his reasons for the resignation, but rather it was at the request of other deputies and due to his indecent attitude," Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said after the voting.

Shar'pasand offered his resignation to the Majlis on July 2.

Pakistan

Army Delegations End Talks on Siachen Issue

BK1207133789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] The Army delegations of Pakistan and India concluded their 2-day talks on Siachen in New Delhi today. The two delegations will now report back to their governments.

The delegations discussed setting up of a Joint Military Commission to mark ground position of troops on Siachen Glacier. The Pakistan delegation, led by Lieutenant General Imtiaz Warriach, had a detailed discussion of a technical nature on plotting the area for redeployment of troops of the two countries on the glacier.

Their discussions took place in the pursuance of the defense secretaries talks held last month in Islamabad to end their confrontation on Siachen.

Sri Lanka

Universities Closed; Troops Raid Campuses

BK1307031289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, says the opposition conference convened by him is almost his last attempt to preserve the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. In an interview with the All India Radio correspondent, Sebastian Roberts, in Trincomalee, he said if there is a proper response from the opposition parties, then his party and government will make all efforts to solve the issue.

Meanwhile, troops yesterday entered the university campuses in the island and found a large quantity of explosives, weapons, and subversive literature. The raids were carried out after five universities in Colombo and other parts of the country were temporarily closed. A government statement later said this was done to curb the activities of a small group of students who had been intimidating others and preventing them from pursuing their studies.

Tamil Party Establishes Contact With JVP

BK1307070089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Madras, India, July 13 (AFP)—A key Sri Lankan Tamil political party has said it has established contact with anti-government Sinhalese rebels against whom Colombo has launched a massive military crackdown.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said it was talking to the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) at a "certain level" in a bid to bring "peace and order" to the island republic.

"We have established some contacts," EPRLF Secretary General K. Padmanabha said in this southern Indian city Wednesday. "We will talk to everyone from top to bottom (in the JVP)." He did not say where and when the first contact with the JVP was made, but said: "We need to talk to them because they have doubts about us and we want to know them better."

The pro-India EPRLF governs Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province and has stepped up criticism of Colombo since the latter initiated peace talks in April with the rival Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group.

The JVP, which is both anti-India and anti-government, has been blamed for hundreds of killings of its opponents and government sympathisers over the past two years, forcing a sweeping military crackdown last month.

The group, which sought to topple the government in 1971 at the cost of nearly 10,000 lives, draws its support from the majority Sinhalese community.

The EPRLF, about a fortnight ago, called the JVP for peace talks in a surprise move which observers here say was aimed at embarrassing the Sri Lankan Government as a reprisal for holding the discussions with the LTTE.

Mr. Padmanabha, who frequently shuttles between Sri Lanka and India, also charged in a 35-minute interview that Colombo has provided arms and funding to enable the LTTE to continue its bloody guerrilla war against Indian troops in the island.

India has some 45,000 troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northeast in line with a 1987 bilateral peace accord which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign and devolve limited autonomy to the minority Tamil community.

"They (LTTE) have been given money and weapons to fight us and the IPKF (Indian Peacekeeping Force)," Mr. Padmanabha said. "They have also been given shelter in Sri Lankan army camps."

He said the EPRLF, which also has seven members in Parliament, had gathered the information from its "intelligence network" and from a section of Sri Lankan Government officials who he claimed opposed Colombo's courting of the LTTE.

The LTTE, unlike the EPRLF, has rejected the 1987 accord and refused to surrender its weapons. It has announced a cessation of hostilities against Colombo, but continued its war against the Indians, which erupted in October 1987.

Mr. Padmanabha also reiterated his left-wing group's disapproval of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa's call for a withdrawal of Indian troops from the island by July 29, the second anniversary of the peace accord.

"If the Indians withdraw before a security system is set up in the northeast, there will be a massacre of Tamil people by Sri Lankan troops," he said. "There will be major problems."

Nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected guerrillas have died in bitter fighting since the IPKF launched an offensive to disarm the LTTE 21 months ago.

EPRLF Sets Condition on LTTE on New Elections

BK1307080189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], heading the Northeastern Provincial Council in Sri Lanka, says it is ready to face fresh elections provided the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] gave up violence and participated in the democratic process. The EPRLF general secretary, Mr Padmanabha, told newsmen in Madras yesterday that the only condition demanded by his group was a guarantee from the Sri Lankan Government and other pro-LTTE forces that the Tigers will not attack other Tamil groups at a later date. LTTE has been demanding that the EPRLF step down and face elections afresh.

ENDLF: Indian Pullout No Security Guarantee

BK0807132889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front, ENDLF, has said that the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force [PKF] from the northeastern part of Sri Lanka at this juncture could not guarantee the security, dignity, and aspirations of the Tamil-speaking people. In a statement released in Madras today, a spokesman of the ENDLF said all the Tamil groups owe a responsibility to protect the long-term interests of the Tamils.

The spokesman also appealed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to join hands with other groups in an effort to fulfill the long-standing desire of the Sri Lankan Tamils.

Foreign Journalists Urge End of Press Censorship

BK1207112489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 12 (AFP)—Foreign correspondents here Wednesday called on the Sri Lankan Government to immediately lift the current censorship and said restrictions on their work amounted to a news blackout.

The Foreign Correspondents' Association of Sri Lanka in a letter to Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne called for an immediate review of the censorship imposed on Thursday under sweeping emergency powers.

Mr. Wijeratne, who announced the censorship on Thursday, said it being done because there was an attempt by anti-government militants to overthrow the administration by crippling essential services.

"Our aim is to give fair, accurate and objective reports on what is happening here and to explain to the world the reasons for Sri Lanka's plight. It is our collective experience that censorship makes such a task impossible and indeed will make the current crisis seem even worse than it is," the association said.

It said it was also concerned about the special dispensation given correspondents over the weekend to report the killing of a former ruling party MP [Member of Parliament] by Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) gunmen. "We believe this amounts to news management for propaganda purposes," the association said.

Mr. Wijeratne had earlier said the censors would be lenient, but foreign correspondents said they found the censors becoming even stricter.

(Censored) [AFP editorial notation]

"...Censorship is anathema to any journalist as we are sure it is any country claiming to be a democracy which upholds the basic rights of freedom and speech and freedom of the press," the association said.

Striking Transport Workers Receive Raises

BK1307061689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0545 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 13 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Thursday [13 July] conceded wage increases sought by transport workers in a bid to end a month-long strike which has crippled essential services in the country, the state radio announced.

The announcement said some 52,000 workers of the state-run Central Transport Board (CTB) would get a salary increase of 180 rupees (5.20 dollars) and a special monthly allowance of 45 rupees (1.30 dollars) with effect from 1982 [AFP note: 1982 is correct]. The increase represents a 10 percent rise on average monthly wages of some 2,000 rupees (57 dollars).

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, in its special bulletin, also urged the strikers to end their work stoppage and report for duty immediately to restore normal transport services throughout the country.

There was no immediate word if the strikers had agreed to the concessions.

The radio said the government had also decided to grant "a general salary increase to all public servants", but gave no details. The decisions were taken a high-level meeting of the government Thursday, it added.

The transport strike, which began June 12, was the most successful in independent Sri Lanka and forced the authorities to take to sweeping emergency powers to maintain essential services, but without success. The strike was sponsored by the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which has been blamed for several hundred killings over the past two years.

According to the government, more than 100 bus employees who reported for work during the strike were killed by the JVP, whose activists also torched dozens of buses and private vehicles.

The CTB operates bus services throughout Sri Lanka. After the strike, private buses also went off the roads following threats and arson attacks by strike sympathisers.